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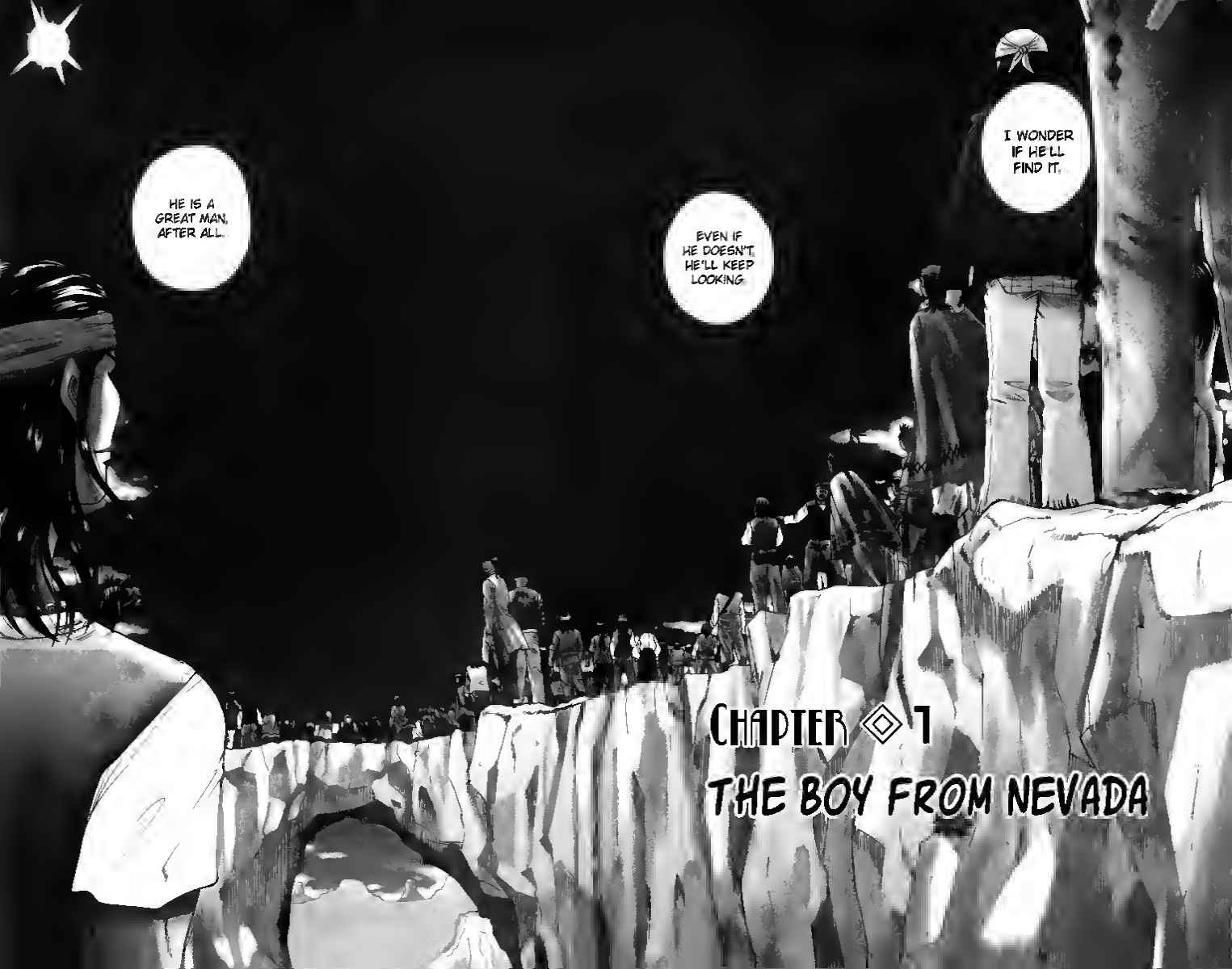
I'M DOUSHIROU

1

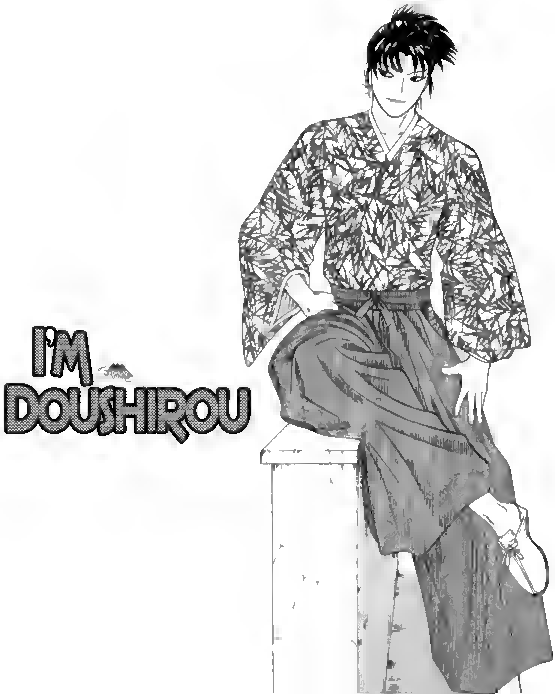
西森博之

HIROYUKI NISHIMORI

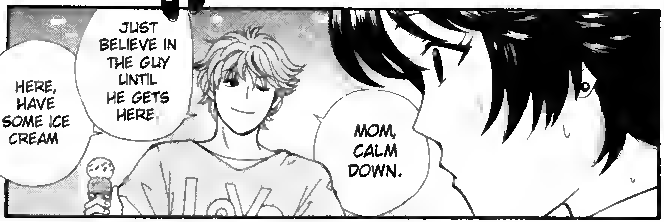
CHAPTER 1 THE BOY FROM NEVADA



CHAPTER ◇ 1
THE BOY FROM NEVADA

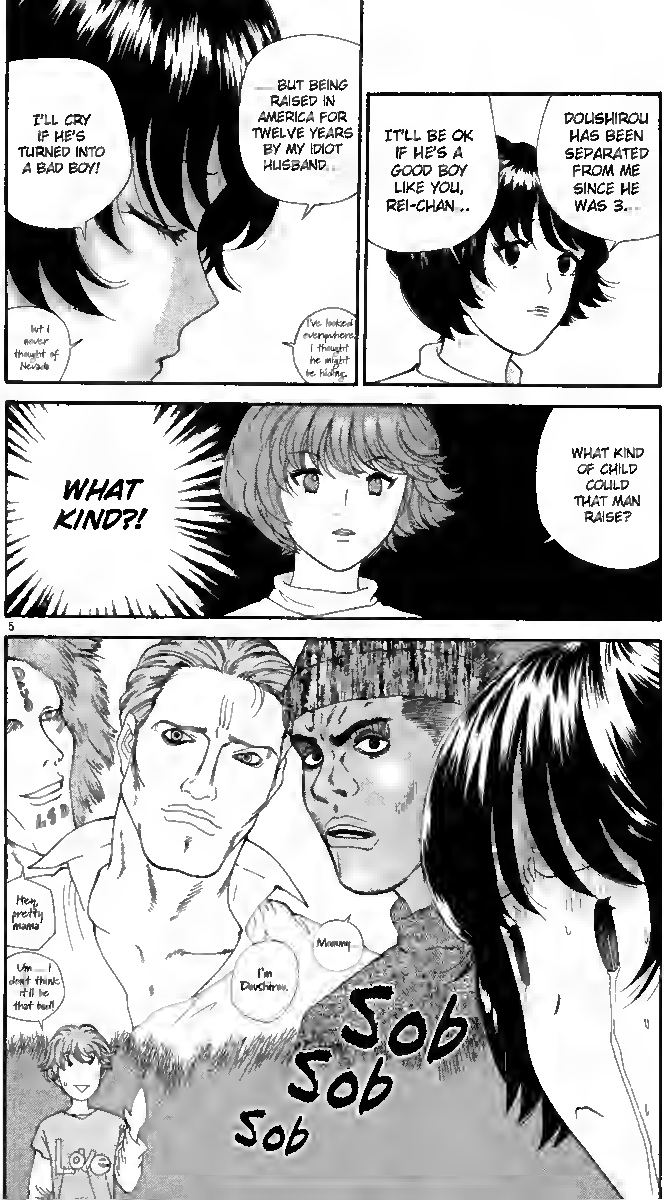

I'M
DOUKHIROU

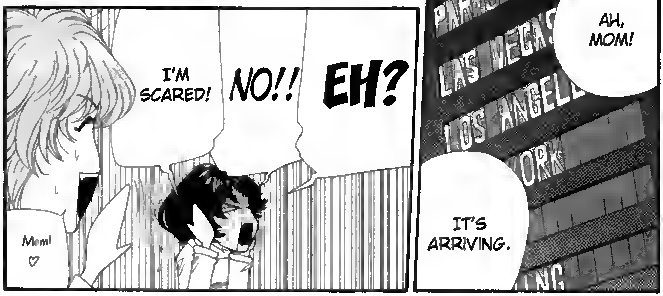
Mother and son who have been separated are finally reuniting.
BA-DUMP
... Doushirou is coming back.
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
My son, whom my idiot husband took twelve years ago...
My heart is pounding...

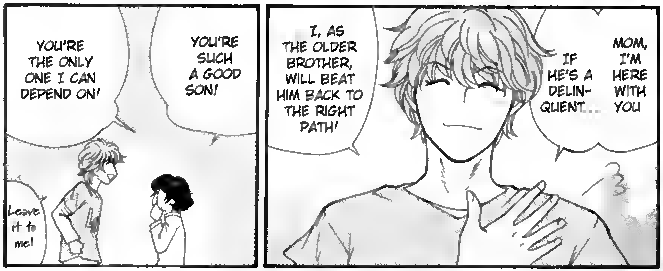

HERE, HAVE SOME ICE CREAM
JUST BELIEVE IN THE GUY UNTIL HE GETS HERE
MOM, CALM DOWN.

Mmm
BUT YOU KNOW, REIICHI, I'M WORRIED

YOU'RE RIGHT, I HAVE TO CALM DOWN
...
Thanks.


DOUSHIROU HAS BEEN SEPARATED FROM ME SINCE HE WAS 3...
IT'LL BE OK IF HE'S A GOOD BOY LIKE YOU, REI-CHAN..
...BUT BEING RAISED IN AMERICA FOR TWELVE YEARS BY MY IDIOT HUSBAND...
I'LL CRY IF HE'S TURNED INTO A BAD BOY!
I've looked everywhere. I thought he might be hiding.
but I never thought of Nevada
WHAT KIND OF CHILD COULD THAT MAN RAISE?
WHAT KIND?!
5
Hey, pretty mama
Um... I don't think it'll be that fun!
I'm Daichirou.
Mommy
Sob
Sob
Sob
Love


I'M SCARED!
NO!!
EH?
Mom! ♡
AH, MOM!
IT'S ARRIVING.


YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN DEPEND ON!
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD SON!
Leave it to me!
I, AS THE OLDER BROTHER, WILL BEAT HIM BACK TO THE RIGHT PATH!
IF HE'S A DELIN-QUENT...
MOM, I'M HERE WITH YOU!

HERE HE IS, MA'AM.
JUMP

What am I scared of? He's my son!
THANK YOU, TAKUHIRO-SAN, IT MUST'VE BEEN—
LOOM
NO, IT WAS NO PROBLEM AT ALL.
Huge.

Nooooo!
...he's really...
Dou-shirou...
He's a giant!
...giant.
...
He's
...
You're the mom! The mom...
You're the... mom...
GRIP
Marie!!

DOU-SHIROU!!
IT'S MAMA! YOU'VE GROWN SO MUCH!
I'VE MISSED YOU SO!
Love
DOON

Even if they call it a mother complex, I love you!
Cry
The best mom in the world!
Mom! You're so strong!
STEP

Idiot! You're an idiot!
OH, COME ON, MA'AM THERE'S NO WAY THAT COULD HAVE BEEN YOUR SON ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
There's no way!
Impossible!
I'LL BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF YOU! WHERE IS HE? WHERE HAVE YOU TAKEN HIM?!
A huge idiot!
HUH? NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, WHERE IS HE?
HE WAS JUST BEHIND ME A SECOND AGO...
GRRRR
HOW MUCH AGONY DO YOU THINK I'VE GONE THROUGH TODAY?!
OK, OK Calm down
At least he's not a giant

WELL, HE IS RATHER ODD...
...THAT GUY...
TWITCH

10

AH, THERE HE IS!
HEY, DOUSHIROU-KUN!
Otter?
Odd... Odder...

寿
ガブ
ガブ
ガブ

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HE LOOKS REALLY GOOD!
ARE YOU ACTUALLY LOOKING AT HIM?
HUH... YOU DON'T THINK SO?
That's my boy!
WHAT?!
OH, HE'S NOT ODD AT ALL!

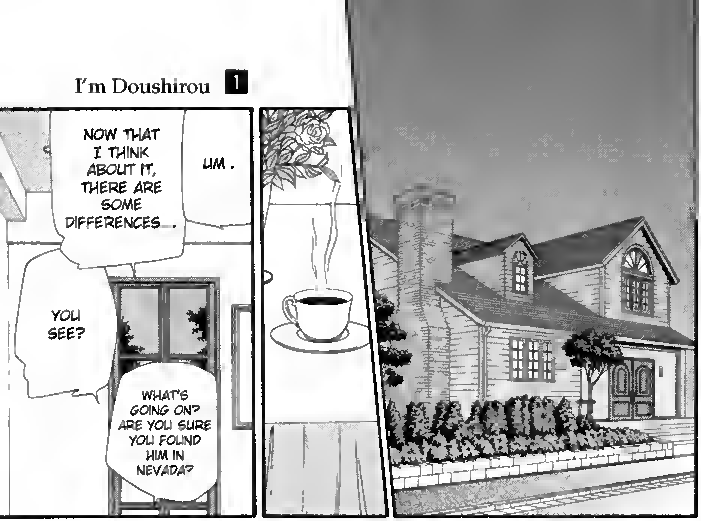
I GUESS PICTURE BOOK ARTISTS ARE JUST STRANGE
She's always been like that
I'VE MISSED YOU!
I've been looking for you for so long!
DOUSHIROU, IT'S MAMA!

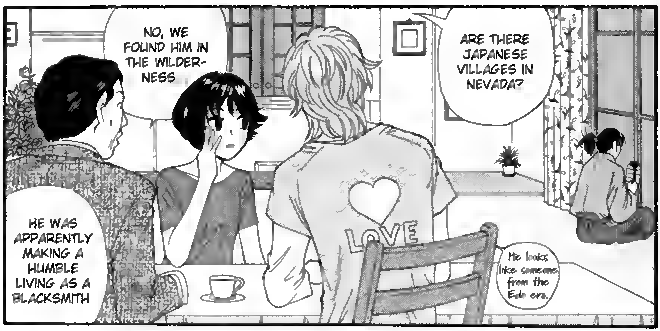
... I've finally found you!
Ah, Doushirou...

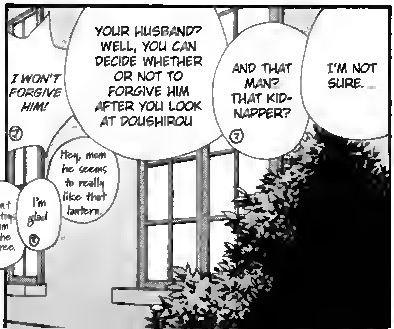
BOW

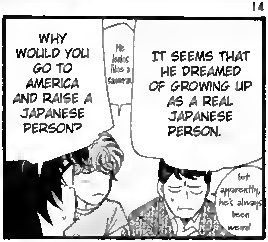
Formal

MOTHER... I, DOUSHIROU, HAVE RETURNED.
Oh!
I know!
This is the first I've seen them!
Japanese people!
Sigh


NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THERE ARE SOME DIFFERENCES...
UM.
YOU SEE?
WHAT'S GOING ON? ARE YOU SURE YOU FOUND HIM IN NEVADA?


NO, WE FOUND HIM IN THE WILDERNESS.
ARE THERE JAPANESE VILLAGES IN NEVADA?
HE WAS APPARENTLY MAKING A HUMBLE LIVING AS A BLACKSMITH
He looks like someone from the Edo era.
LOVE


I WON'T FORGIVE HIM!
YOUR HUSBAND? WELL, YOU CAN DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO FORGIVE HIM AFTER YOU LOOK AT DOUSHIROU
AND THAT MAN? THAT KIDNAPPER?
I'M NOT SURE...
Hey, mom he seems to really like that lantern.
I'm glad
I haven't bought toys for him since he was three.


WHY WOULD YOU GO TO AMERICA AND RAISE A JAPANESE PERSON?
He looks like a samurai.
IT SEEMS THAT HE DREAMED OF GROWING UP AS A REAL JAPANESE PERSON.
but apparently he's always been weird

JUMP
TOMP
I LOVE
Stare
15
WAIT, WHY MT. FUJI?!
Let's see. Mt. Ofuuna is
AMERICANS THINK THAT YOU CAN SEE MT. FUJI FROM ANYWHERE IN JAPAN
WHY CAN I NOT SEE MT. FUJI?
MOTHER, IS THIS THE EDGE OF JAPAN?
I wish he'd act like a little brother!

...THEN I WILL LEAVE FOR A SHORT WALK.
HUH?
YOU CAN'T SEE MT. FUJI FROM HERE
WAIT, YOU'RE GOING DRESSED LIKE THAT?
WAIT, DOUSHIROU!
WHY ARE YOU TAKING THAT WITH YOU?
Clak
Meow
Clak
Not here...
Clak

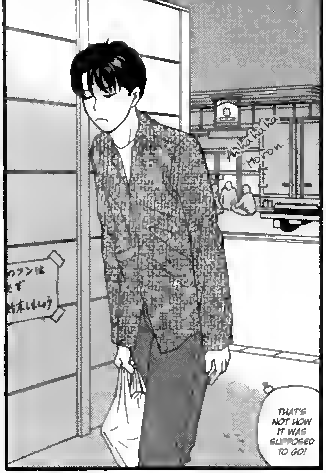
Mt. Fuji isn't here.
Why am I in a place where you can't see it?
Clak
Clak
... and I haven't seen anyone...
No, do not show fear... there's a long history...
of this happening in Japan
What?
What's that?
Uh-oh.
Looks like he's come to test me.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
23

Like I said.
Ugh!

EXCUSE ME...
You're in the way, fool!

COME ON, SEE IF YOU CAN TAKE ME!
WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO LOWER MY HEAD TO YOU, FOOL?!
clak


THAT'S NOT HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO GO!

Ya!
Hai-ya!
If I knew karate, that is...
CLAK

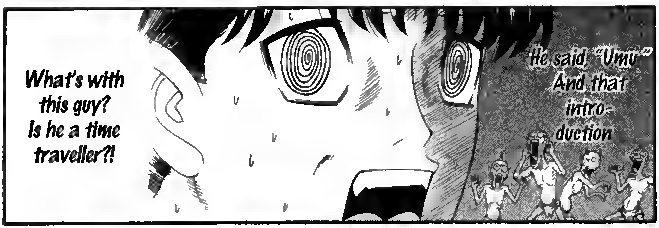
What's that clak-clak sound?
CLAK

... they probably had a bunch of friends they'd call...
No, wait I'm an adult I can't do that, what I did was...
CLAK
CLAK
CLAK
WELL, IN THAT CASE I DON'T NEED TO LEARN KARATE

Someone's kid?! A swords-man?!
I ran into a weird one...
What?!

Wh-what am I saying?!
ARE YOU A SWORDS-MAN?
What should I say? I'm not good with the bnormal!
I've stared at him this long... I should say some-thing.
Wha– what should I do?!

*Zyvlyn's note: Umu is an old samurai way of saying yes.



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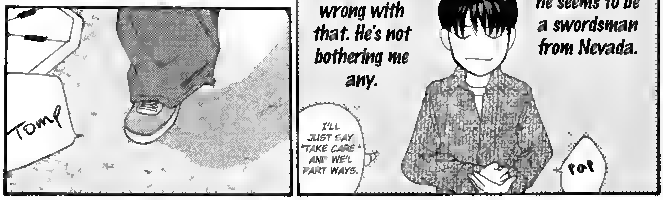
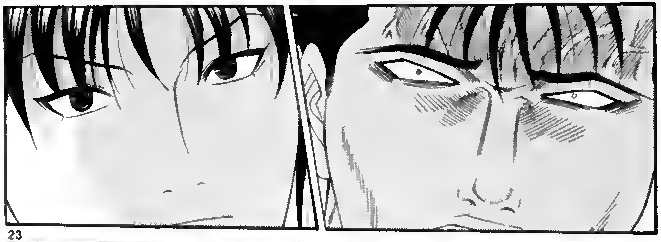

Tomf
There's nothing wrong with that. He's not bothering me any.
Well, I don't really get it, but he seems to be a swordsman from Nevada.
I'LL JUST SAY "TAKE CARE" AND WE'LL PART WAYS.
Pat

BB

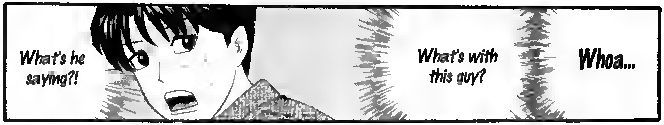
Tuu
御用
DID HE LOSE A BET?
HEH-HEH.
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?

Ummm



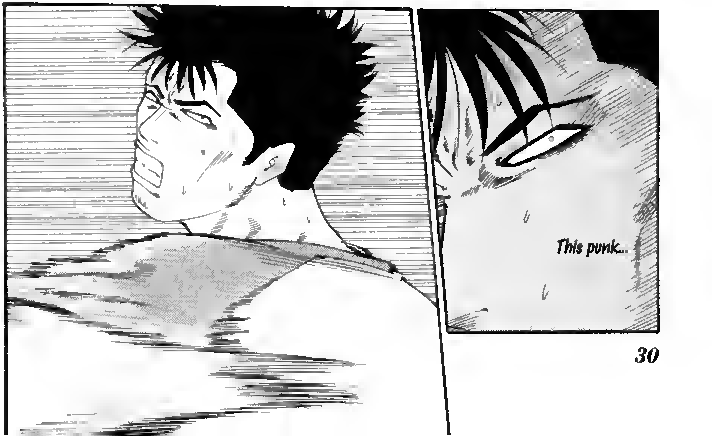
Putting on a cool face...
YOU BASTARD
NOW YOU'VE DONE IT, PICKING A FIGHT WITH HIM. .
YEAH! BOSS-SAMA NEVER FORGIVES A GUY WHO LOOKS HIM IN THE FACE LIKE THAT!
IS IT A DUEL?
HUH?
IT'S A DUEL, RIGHT?

I AM KIRIU DOUSHIROU
INTERESTING I ACCEPT.
YOU ARE?


What's he saying?!
What's with this guy?
Whoa...

I'M SAOTOME AI!
SWISH
HE'S MAKIN' FUN OF YOU!

25

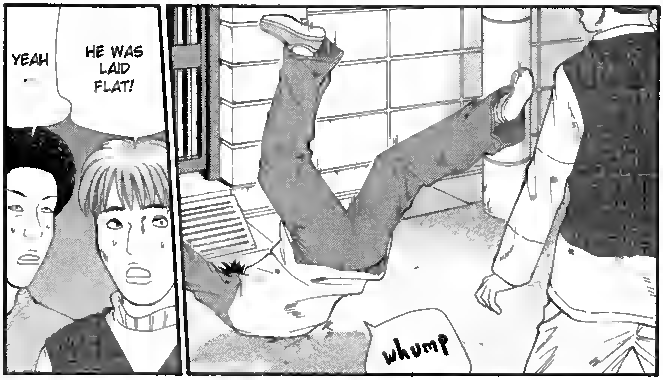


...he doesn't...
...even blink!

SHOOM

WHAM

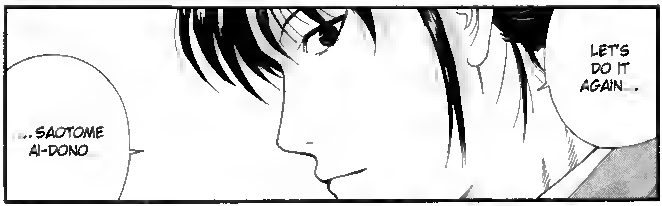
A direct hit?

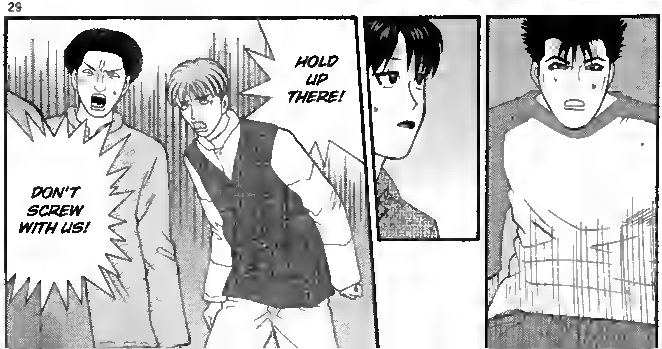

YEAH
HE WAS LAID FLAT!
whump

That bastard

I was brought down by this joke of a kid...
Huh?! I can't stand..
Why?

IT WAS A GOOD DUEL.

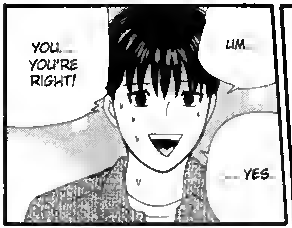

LET'S DO IT AGAIN...
...SAOTOME AI-DONO


HOLD UP THERE!
DON'T SCREW WITH US!

DUEL? NO, UM...
We're Ex.! not that stupid...
WOULD YOU DUEL ME AS WELL?
YOU OK, BOSS-SAMA?

HE'S MAKIN' FUN OF US!
WHAT'S HE MEAN, "GOOD DUEL?"
HE FIGHTS DIRTY, CHARGING IN SUDDENLY LIKE THAT.
MAKING US LOOK LIKE FOOLS.
HE PISSES ME OFF SO BAD.

THIS REALLY IS JAPAN, JUST LIKE MY FATHER DESCRIBED IT.
KENSUKE-DONO...
LIMM...
Hehe
SO I ENDED UP FOLLOWING HIM. I COULDN'T STAY WITH THOSE GUYS.
HUH?
DOES HE THINK I'M HIS FRIEND?


YOU... YOU'RE RIGHT!
LIM...
...YES.

HE WAS A GOOD, STRAIGHT-FORWARD OPPONENT
SAY, KENSUKE-DONO, DID YOU NOT THINK IT WAS A GOOD DUEL?

31

WHAT IS IT...?
HUH?
THERE IS SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK OF YOU.

I AM GLAD.
OH! I KNEW YOU WOULD UNDER-STAND!
Ah ha ha. OK. Well, I'll be going.

Bluntly
NO WAY.
Hello, my fellow Japanese

UM...
ARE THERE PEOPLE HERE WITH TOPKNOTS?

酒
How could this happen?
Is this really Japan?!
wobble wobble
Why is he so depressed?

32

OH! THERE IS SOMEONE!
C'MON, NEXT BAR!
酒
Even though the lanterns are here.
Rattle
Why?
Good girl
It's hot, I can't breathe!

DO YOU SUPPOSE DOUSHIROU IS DOING WELL?
I DON'T KNOW.
...
Brska
I WONDER IF HE'S GOT THE WRONG IDEA...
...ABOUT JAPAN.
I see. So you think so, too.
...THAT KID PROBABLY HAS SEVERAL WRONG IDEAS...

道士郎で
1
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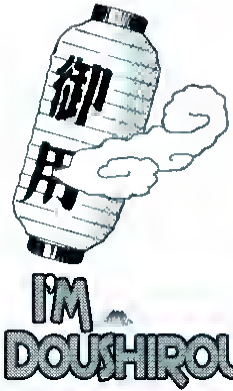
I'M DOSHIRO.

3歳の時、バカ親父に連れ去られて、
アメリカはネバダ州の荒野で育てられた道士郎。12年ぶりに発見され、
日本の母の元に帰ってきたのだが、
なぜか本物の武士になっていた!! その風貌と態度が原因で帰国早々ケンカ騒動
高校でも登校初日から悪たちに睨まれるハメに!!
勝負に次ぐ勝負の第1巻!!



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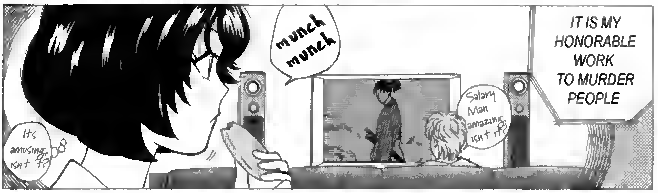
CHAPTER◇2
THE FIRST SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

*Bushi: samurai

Doushirou... bushi...?
Umph
Bush? What's up with that?
Ah...
Umbledora mascot banana fudge
I wonder are those the words of the young man?
A person who does WHAT?!


munch munch
IT IS MY HONORABLE WORK TO MURDER PEOPLE
Salary Man amazing, isn't it?
It's amusing, isn't it?

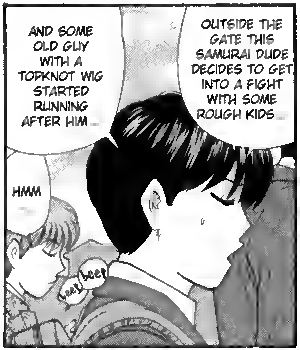
TO MURDER PEOPLE.
Ack

WHAT HAPPENED, MUM?
OH, REI-CHAN... DOUSHIROU DID COME HOME YESTERDAY, RIGHT?
Ha
Ha
Ha
IT'S BEEN TWELVE YEARS SINCE HE WENT AWAY, HASN'T IT? HE'S A NORMAL KID, ISN'T HE?
No. He's definitely NOT normal
No. He definitely is.
HE WASN'T A WARRIOR... WAS HE?
GOOD MORNING.
HONORABLE MOTHER.
IT IS A GOOD MORNING.
NO, NO, NO... DOUSHIROU, HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS, BUT, MEN DON'T NEED TO LOWER THEIR HEADS THAT MUCH.
NO, HONORABLE MOTHER IS THE HEAD OF THIS HOUSE-HOLD, SO I MUST.

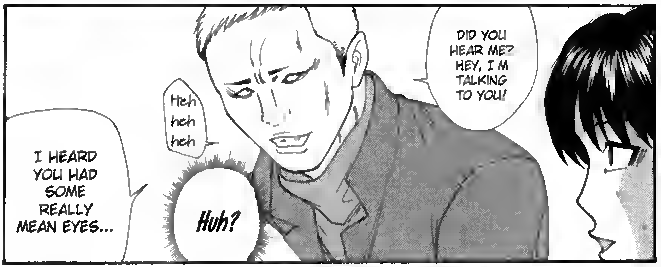
That gorilla-like face... I can't stand it...
Doushirou... What the hell is he?
Is he good or... is he bad?
5
Somehow he seems to be an honest straightforward person

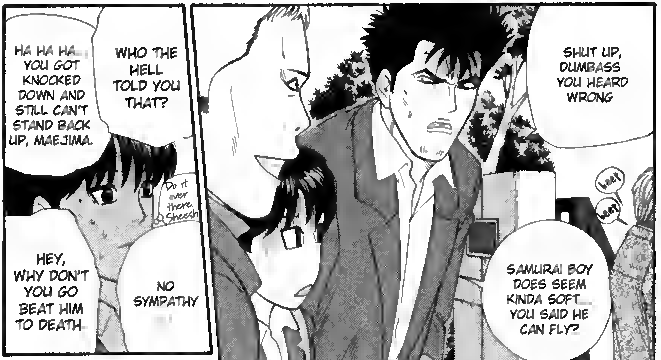
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MOM?!
scoot scoot
He's definitely a good boy. I can feel it. Definitely a good boy.
It's all right! It's all right!
Mom
COME, COME NOW, LET'S HAVE BREAKFAST.
I COULD GAZE INTO THOSE EYES FOREVER...
BUT...
ARE YOU... SOME KIND OF FREAK OR PERVERT? DOING THAT WITH YOUR SON?!
I can see the sky so good...
Something welled up inside me.

THE SHIT HIT THE FAN.
LAST WEEK...

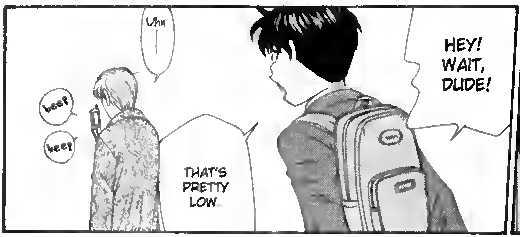

AND SOME OLD GUY WITH A TOPKNOT WIG STARTED RUNNING AFTER HIM...
OUTSIDE THE GATE THIS SAMURAI DUDE DECIDES TO GET INTO A FIGHT WITH SOME ROUGH KIDS...
HMM...
beep
beep

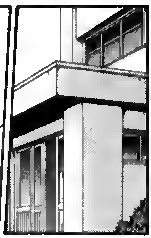
YOU PROBABLY WON'T BELIEVE IT BUT, YOU KNOW IT WAS OVER NEAR THE CHERRY BLOSSOM WAY...
WHAT HAP-PENED?
SOME CRAZY SAMURAI-LIKE GUY CARRYING A PAPER LANTERN CAME OUT OF NOWHERE...
HMM...?
beep
beep


I HEARD YOU HAD SOME REALLY MEAN EYES...
Heh heh heh
Huh?
DID YOU HEAR ME? HEY, I'M TALKING TO YOU!


HA HA HA... YOU GOT KNOCKED DOWN AND STILL CAN'T STAND BACK UP, MAEJIMA.
WHO THE HELL TOLD YOU THAT?
Do it over there. Sheesh
HEY, WHY DON'T YOU GO BEAT HIM TO DEATH.
NO SYMPATHY
SHUT UP, DUMBASS YOU HEARD WRONG
snap!
snap!
SAMURAI BOY DOES SEEM KINDA SOFT... YOU SAID HE CAN FLY?

He said to go smack Doushirou around
This kind of place... some rough kids...
Outside the gate... some rough kids...
Eh?
Hey, you! Macjima!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKIN' AT?
YOU SAW SOMETHING, DIDNCHA?
OH, EIGHT IS THE TARGET? GO! GO! HA HA HA HA...
SHE'LL FLY REAL NICE!





9

EH? IT'S A GIRL?
HEY, WHAT KINDA GIRL YOU THINK SHE'S GONNA BE?
AND IT'S A GIRL, TOO!
IDIOT! OF COURSE IT'S A GIRL SINCE IT'S A GIRL RETURNING FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY!

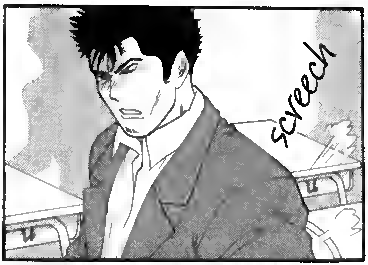
TODAY A TRANSFER STUDENT WHO JUST RETURNED TO JAPAN AFTER LIVING IN THE STATES FOR A WHILE IS COMING TO OUR CLASS
HEY! BIG NEWS!

Heidegger's note: They assume it's a girl because the fourth kanji used in the word meaning 'A returning person from another country' is the kanji for woman pronounced jou

I AM THE RETURNING GIRL FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY!
However... they were surprised to learn the truth about the returning girl.
SURELY!
SWAM
Certainly the choice of clothing is up to each person but this is a bit much.

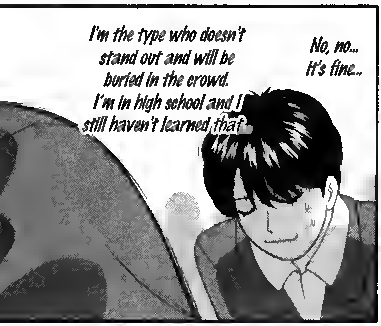
SAOTOME-DONO, AN UNEXPECTED MEETING, IS IT NOT?!
NO...

WHAT'S WRONG, MAEJIMA-KUN?
NOTHING...


screech

SAOTOME, WHO?!
WHAT'S THAT?!
That is my samurai spirit, America-!
He just said gaijin.
Sheesh, this kid!

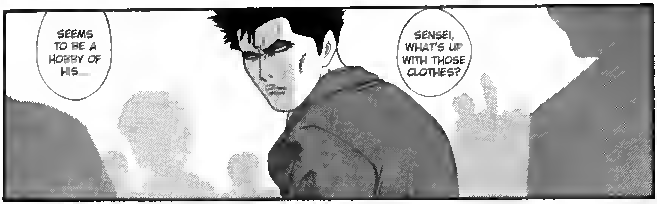
11


I'm the type who doesn't stand out and will be buried in the crowd. I'm in high school and I still haven't learned that...
No, no... It's fine...

Ah... This sucks. I was with the crazy samurai boy when he beat up Maejima... In the same class with his enemy... How the hell...?

Your eyes are so nice, Youshirou-kun~

WHOA! KENSUKE-DONO IS HERE, TOO?!
JAPAN IS A SMALL COUNTRY!


SENSEI, WHAT'S UP WITH THOSE CLOTHES?
SEEMS TO BE A HOBBY OF HIS.....

12

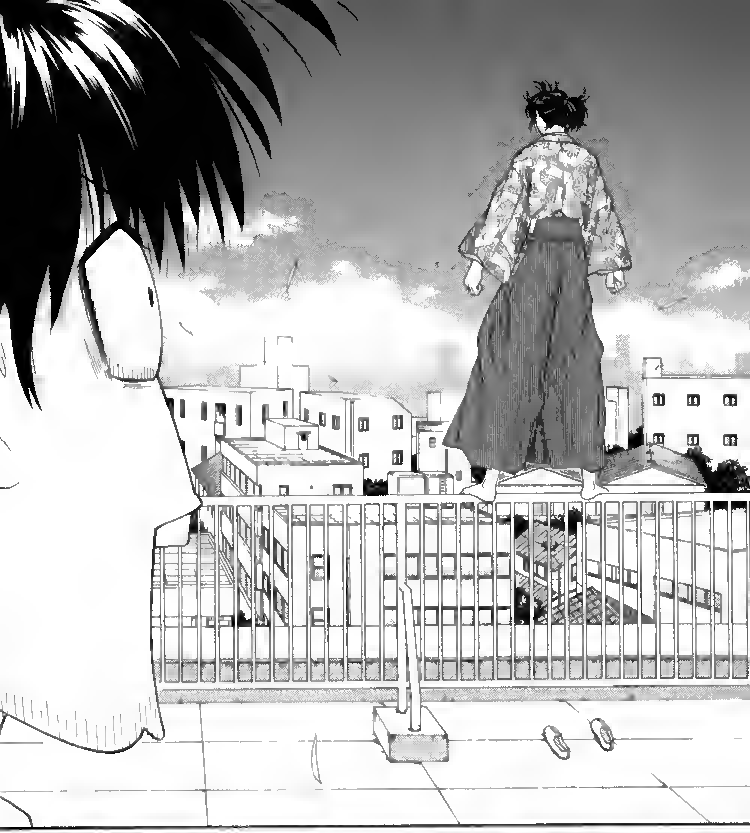
Phew...

AH...
YOU... FROM THAT TIME...

GRUNCH

Did he see it?!
crinkle
crinkle
crinkle
Bring him with you
and go to the back

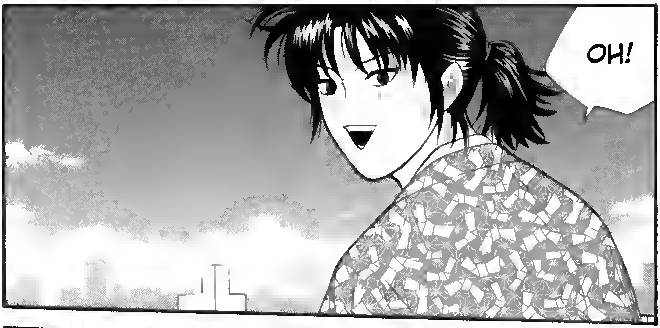
Heh heh...
I'm so cool
Heh heh heh...
At least I can
laugh at it...
Oh well, at least
I can say I've
experienced
everything...
CHUK
I WONDER
WHERE
HE WENT...
He hates
him with
every fiber
of his being.
I'm his
enemy
now...
It's probably
because
that thing
hit him...



14

What should I do...? I'm a coward...
clatter
Wh-What should I do...?
Huff
Huff

No, I shouldn't threaten him!
WHAT THE FUCK ARE Y—?!


OH!

CLANG

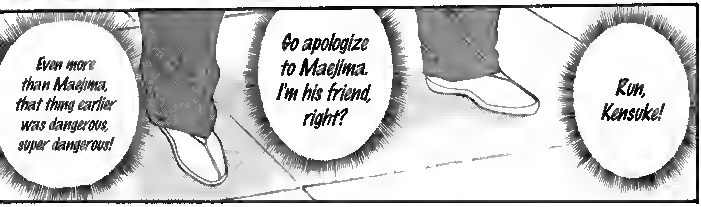
15

AH, WHAT SPLENDOR!
Clang!
HEY, KENSUKE-DONO! THAT'S MOUNT FUJI, ISN'T IT?!
It is Mount Fuji! It is!

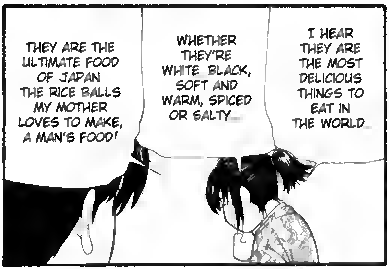
That mountain!
Fuji is so great... Japan is nice...
This is my greatest day in Japan.

Wha...
What the hell is this guy?!

This man is dangerous! I mustn't approach him!
In his head ... no ... in his heart ... no... Even more than that, from something even greater than that I can hear a voice!
This place
Head
Heart
THEN, THIS BOXED LUNCH I HAVE RECEIVED FROM MY HONORABLE MOTHER WE SHALL EAT
bow bow
A sandwich, huh?
That's dangerous! Dangerous!!


Even more than Maejima, that thing earlier was dangerous, super dangerous!
Go apologize to Maejima. I'm his friend, right?
Run, Kensuke!

17


THEY ARE THE ULTIMATE FOOD OF JAPAN THE RICE BALLS MY MOTHER LOVES TO MAKE, A MAN'S FOOD!
WHETHER THEY'RE WHITE, BLACK, SOFT AND WARM, SPICED OR SALTY...
I HEAR THEY ARE THE MOST DELICIOUS THINGS TO EAT IN THE WORLD...

I will repent I will repent having anything to do with this person.
KENSUKE-DONO, HAVE YOU EVER HAD A RICE BALL?

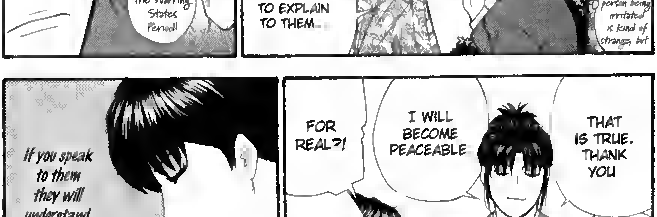
HEY... IT'S FUJI! I WONDER HOW RICE BALLS TASTE...
THIS GUY HE LOOKS LIKE THIS, BUT HE PROBABLY REALLY DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT JAPAN...
HEY, YOU KNOW YOU CAN BUY THEM AT CONVENIENCE STORES, RIGHT?
WHEN I ASKED MY FATHER, HE LAUGHED...
OH, NEVER MIND, FORGET IT...
MAKING FOOD IS EFFEMINATE...
THAT SORT OF VULGAR IMPERSON-ATION WILL NOT WORK!
I HAVE TO BE A MAN ABOUT IT,
UNSATIS-FACTORY?
IF MY MOTHER DOES NOT MOLD THEM, IT IS UN-SATISFACTORY
BUT... IF YOU ASK FOR IT, WON'T SHE MAKE THEM?
Sigh

HEH HEH... I WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
AND WAIT UNTIL SHE MAKES THEM FOR ME

OH, IS THAT A KITE? IT SURE IS FLYING HIGH, ISN'T IT?
THIS IS A GOOD OMEN
When it comes to just one rice ball this guy is pretty grandoise...
...Other than that, he's probably a pretty small-minded person.
I SEE
WHAT?!
YOU DON'T KNOW HIM, DO YOU?
I'VE GOT SOME BUSINESS WITH THAT GUY, MAEJIMA
Oh, well, he doesn't seem to be a bad guy.

HE IS A VILLIAN.
I CAN'T DO THAT.
NO, YOU SEE...
MAEJIMA, HE'S NOT THAT BAD OF A GUY. HE'S TOLERABLE.
NO! HE IS BAD!
HEY, DOUSHIROU!

Seriously!
DOUSHIRO THERE AREN'T ANY TOPKNOTS ANYMORE...
It's no longer the Warring States Period!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, YOU CAME FROM AMERICA, DIDN'T YOU, DOUSHIRO!?
SO, YOU PROBABLY STILL DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND JAPANESE CUSTOMS, RIGHT?
SOMETHING'S WRONG, NO?
LET'S BE PEACEFUL PEACEFUL, RIGHT?
If you say that they'll understand, so...
I'LL ALSO DO MY BEST TO EXPLAIN TO THEM...
This cool person being irritated is kind of strange, isn't it?


If you speak to them they will understand. That's true...
FOR REAL?!
I WILL BECOME PEACEABLE
THAT IS TRUE. THANK YOU
I'M RELIEVED
SINCE EVEN HONORABLE MOTHER WAS WORRYING...

APOLLO
YOU MUST BE JOKING
NO WAY! EVEN THOUGH HE LOOKS THAT STUPID, HE DID IT?!
THAT GUY? HE'S THE ONE WHO BEAT THE CRAP OUTTA MAEJIMA
WHAT IS THAT? SOME STRANGE DUDE IS COMING!

EVEN FOR A PERSON WHO DID LESS THAN MAEJIMA, IF I WASTE HIM NOW I WILL BE ON TOP FOR MY WHOLE LIFE
NO MATTER WHAT THAT GUY DOES, HE'S GONNA BE ALONE THE MISFORTUNE WILL COME AFTERWARD
IT'S WHAT WE DO TO PEOPLE WHO FUCK WITH US
IDIOT AS IF STRENGTH MATTERS TO ME
BUT YOU KNOW, HE DOES HAVE THE RIGHT AURA HE SEEMS STRONG
Somehow or another it's cool
KWAOOO

FWOOMPSH
Whoa!

HUH?
KLINK
KLINK
KLINK
FWOOSH
WAIT, DOUSHIROU-KUN THIS SEEMS TO BE A VARIETY OF GREETING THAT—
It won't do if I let him make another enemy
A CHALLENGE?
Crap it came out

BONK!

Ouch
TWITCH
TWITCH
WOMP
Ahhh... Why did you say "a challenge?" Again?!
23
Ahhh he's some kind of demon!
He's not a good person at all!
61

I SAW IT THAT ONE TIME A COOL-ACTING RONIN SAMURAI CAME WALKING...
NO, IT WAS DIFFERENT. HE EVEN HAD A TOPKNOT... HE WAS DEFINITELY A WARRIOR.
IT WAS FROM A DISTANCE, BUT...
WOW, A TOPKNOT...
Apparently, it wasn't someone doing Kendo.
I WONDER IF IT WAS SOME SORT OF NEW EVIL SPIRIT
IF IT WAS A SAMURAI, HE WAS PROBABLY WAITING TO COMMIT A TSUJIGIRI*
Vroom
KIRIU-SAN, SOMETHING BAD HAS HAPPENED
WHAT'S WRONG?
SOME MAN WHO HAS BEEN WALKING AROUND LIKE A SAMURAI HAS APPEARED AROUND HERE...
THAT'S SCARY
EVEN IF HE'S TARGETING KIDS, HE MUST HAVE SOME BAD INTENT
Kinko-san (Mystery)
IT'S FINE. I GOT A GOOD LOOK AT HIM AND HE'S NOT CARRYING A KATANA
HE'S A VERY NICE KID.
HE JUST LIKES TRADITIONAL JAPANESE CLOTHING
Putt Putt——
BEEEE, SO HE'S NOT CARRYING A KATANA...
In that case, he's definitely not going to commit a tsujigiri.

*Hitokiguri's more "thoughtful" translation of "killing a passerby (usually to test a newly-made sword)."

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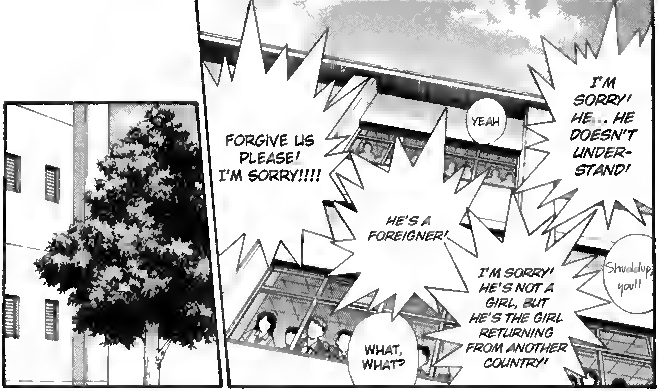
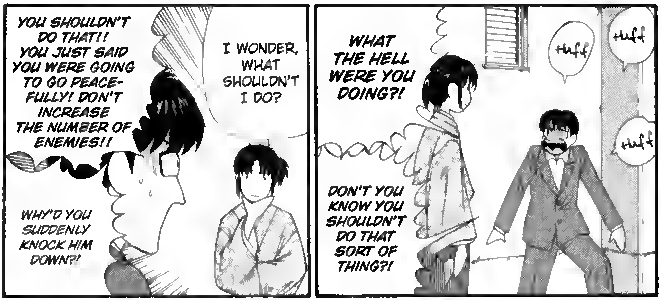
CHAPTER ◇3

THERE'S A REASON FOR FIGHTING?


FORGIVE US PLEASE! I'M SORRY!!!!
YEAH
I'M SORRY! HE... HE DOESN'T UNDER-STAND!
HE'S A FOREIGNER!
I'M SORRY! HE'S NOT A GIRL, BUT HE'S THE GIRL RETURNING FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY!
Shuddup, you!!
WHAT, WHAT?


YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT!! YOU JUST SAID YOU WERE GOING TO GO PEACE-FULLY! DON'T INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ENEMIES!!
I WONDER, WHAT SHOULDN'T I DO?
WHY'D YOU SUDDENLY KNOCK HIM DOWN?!
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING?!
huff
huff
huff
DON'T YOU KNOW YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT SORT OF THING?!

2

THE TRUE JAPAN, I PROBABLY DO NOT KNOW...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I HAVE HEARD SOMETHING SIMILAR FROM MY FATHER AND FRIENDS...
THIS IS WHERE I DECIDE TO DO AS KENSUKE SAYS
I don't think that kind of thing is in either Japan or America
TAKING YOU LIGHTLY? ANYWAY, YOU STILL SHOULDN'T DO THAT! WE'RE IN JAPAN, DUDE!
BUT THAT PERSON... HE WAS TAKING ME LIGHTLY!
I was just putting out the trash.
WELL THEN, IN JAPAN, WHAT DOES ONE DO WHEN ONE HOLDS A GRUDGE?

YEAH, YEAH, OR CONFIDE IN THE TEACHER, OR THINGS LIKE THAT.
IN THOSE SITUATIONS, YEAH, YOU SHOULD DO THINGS LIKE TALK TO THE POLICE.
SO...
AND IN DOING THAT, YOU WILL BE SAVED.
I'm not lying! If you speak to them, they'll understand.

Smile
Ah...he is a good person after all.

REFUSED!!!
Eep!

3

THEIR TRUST- I CANNOT BETRAY IT.
THOSE WHO RAISED ME, WHO BELIEVE IN ME...
You don't seriously believe that kind of story, do you?

MY HUMBLE SELF'S LIFE IS NOT MINE ALONE

True friends...
True friends... who will put their lives on the line and fight for you?
IF THEY, WHEREVER THEY ARE, HEAR THAT I ACTED LIKE A COWARD AFTER BEING MADE A FOOL OF,
THEY WILL PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE AND FIGHT FOR MY HONOR.

The realization was a shock.
THEY DON'T EXIST FOR ME, THEY DON'T EXIST
That's it...!

4

I had to stand up and say it.
HAHAHA, WHAT KIND OF STORY IS THAT?
What could they possibly do? They're so far away.
WELL, I WON'T TELL THEM AND RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE NOT WATCHING, RIGHT?
THEY'RE ALWAYS WATCHING.

Ah...it's here again.
I'm so small... And the things I say... also small
Yeah... that's right I'm such a petty person after all.
WELL, WHATEVER, YEAH... I SEE THEN, THEY'RE WATCHING.
THAT'S IT. YOU'RE NOT MISTAKEN THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE APOLOGIZING IS THAT GUY
But I'll have to ask the girl
BUT WHATEVER, LET'S STOP THIS ALREADY. YOU'RE ALONE

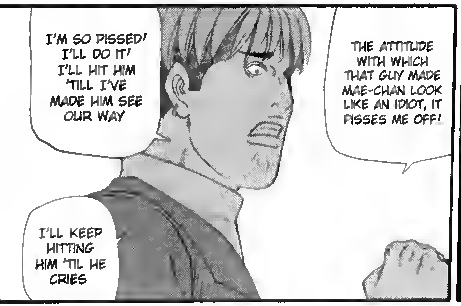
As for me, fighting just won't do.
THAT'S RIGHT
THEY HAVE THEM-- TRUE FRIENDS WHO WOULD LAY THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE FOR THEM.
Even if it's only two, though, still...

Oh! I've said something good, haven't I?
With this, I can persuade him!
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH FRIENDS.
THEN, IT'S A CHALLENGE, RIGHT?

CAN I HIT HIM NOW?
I wonder if I'll be able to go home and sleep on a futon tonight...
If I don't hurry and cut my ties with this man
Swish

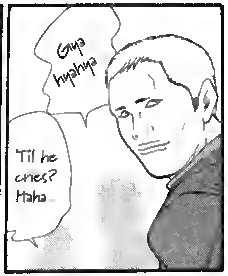
STILL?! I WANNA HURRY AND HIT HIM.
Teasing, teasing
IT'S GONNA GO IN, THE PHANTOM LEFT.
YOU'RE A SAUCY BUGGER, AREN'T YOU?
Hehch.

WELL, YOU GUYS SURE GATHERED HERE AS YOU PLEASED, DIDN'T YOU?
SHADDUP, WHY DONCHA!?
IT'S 'CAUSE YOU'RE SUCH AN IRRITABLE PERSON...


I'M SO PISSED! I'LL DO IT! I'LL HIT HIM 'TILL I'VE MADE HIM SEE OUR WAY
THE ATTITUDE WITH WHICH THAT GUY MADE MAE-CHAN LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT, IT PISSES ME OFF!
I'LL KEEP HITTING HIM 'TIL HE CRIES

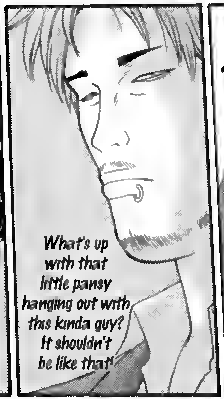
AS FOR ME I'M PLAINLY SAYIN' IT...
IT'S NO LONGER JUST MAE-CHAN'S PROBLEM, THAT'S WHY

Somehow I get the feeling we won't be able to do it so nimbly...
Pfft


Gwa hahha
'Til he cries? Haha...

7

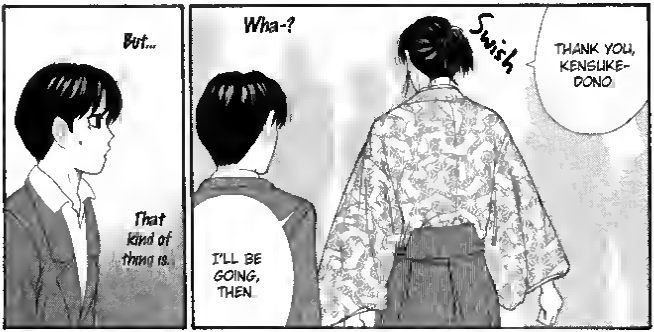
Are you really a high school student dude?
Thump
Thump
I'll show you my student ID


What's up with that little pansy hanging out with this kinda guy? It shouldn't be like that!

Thump Thump Thump
Shit... they're here, they're here! Of course they're here at the place...

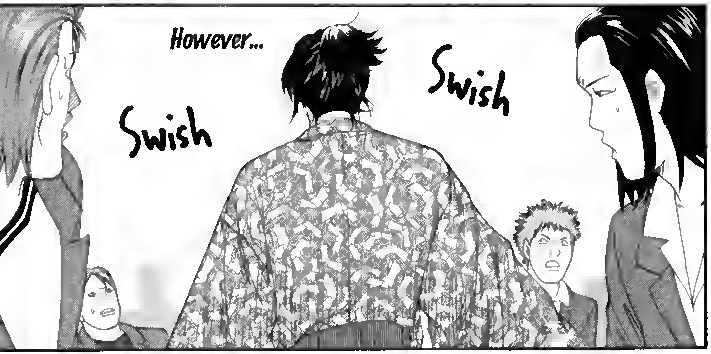
YO, HE'S HERE!

WELL, THEY SURE GATHERED TO THEIR CONTENT, HUH?
Yeah yeah. And it's your fault, isn't it?
YOU CAN STOP HERE.
Swish


But...
That kind of thing is.
Wha-?
Swish
THANK YOU, KENSUKE-DONO.
I'LL BE GOING, THEN.

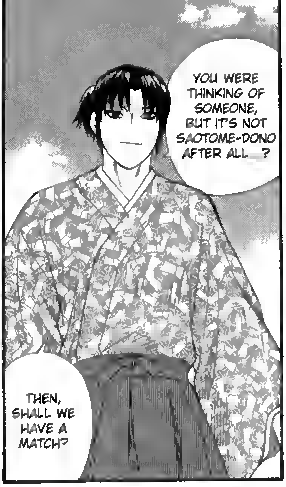
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT MAKEUP!?
YOU, HUH?! YOU STUPID FAKE SAMURAI!
ARE YOU SOME SORT OF RETARD?!
What...?
Swish
Swish

IS HE TRYIN' TO BE STYLISH OR COOL OR SOMETHIN'?
HAH!
Swish
Swish
IT'S A PEACH SAMURAI MAN, THIS THING!


However...
Swish
Swish

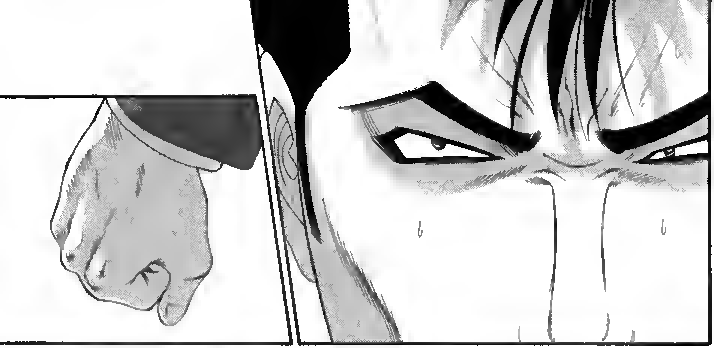
He's walking so elegantly...
Swish

You think you can make fun of us that much, you bastard?


YOU WERE THINKING OF SOMEONE, BUT IT'S NOT SAOTOME-DONO AFTER ALL...?
THEN, SHALL WE HAVE A MATCH?

I'LL BEAT YOU UP RIGHT NOW, ASSHOLE!

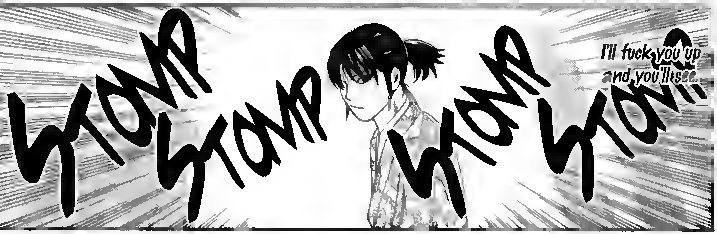
ARE YOU STUPID, YOU BASTARD?
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THAT IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD?!



What a mystery...
Rustle
...is strong.
This guy..

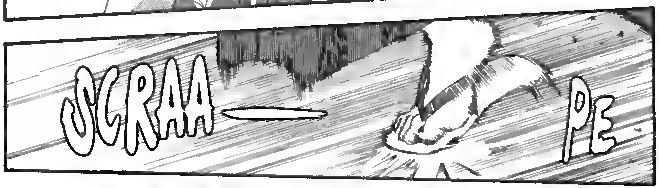
There's a big difference in the level of strength.
OF COURSE, YOU AGREE, RIGHT?
HEY, HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING MAN?
HOWEVER, PROVIDED THAT THING DOESN'T COME AND RAM INTO ME OR SOMETHING DURING THE FIGHT
LET'S DO IT.
HAH?

SCRAPE
Seems like he's not gonna come...
It's something I can do, so I'll just do it and see...
Swish


STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
I'll fuck you up and you'll see...

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
You won't be able to do it this time!

THOSE ARE GOOD HANDS, YO... IT'S MAEJIMA'S WIN...
HE LOOKS KIND OF STUPID, HUH? OH, GOOD DODGE
IT'S HARD TO TELL, BUT I DON'T THINK SO.


SCRAA
PE

ZOOM

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

Stop dodging...
This guy...
STOMP
STOMP
This is getting interesting
Kshahahaha!

So, how the hell
did I get blown over?!

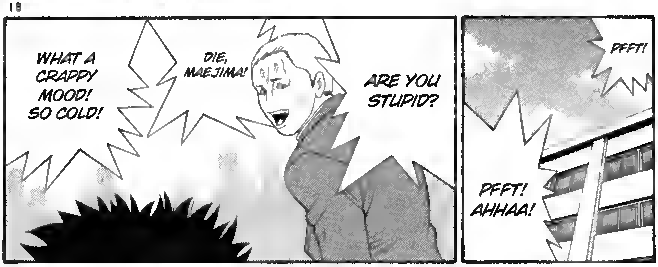
What the hell
are you?
Does he
eat iron?
THUMP

THAT WAS A GOOD FIGHT, WASN'T IT?

17

STOP IT!!!
WHAT THE HELL?! ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF US, FUCKER?!
WHAT THE HELL, WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?!
WAIT UP, WAIT UP! WHAT THE FUCK?!

IT'S A MATCH
IT WAS A MATCH, RIGHT


WHAT A CRAPPY MOOD! SO COLD!
DIE, MAEJIMA!
ARE YOU STUPID?
PFFT!
PFFT! AHHAA!

MATCH... YOU, ARE YOU NOT FAMILIAR WITH CHALLENGES?
NOT REALLY ABOUT THAT MATCH... I WONDER WHAT WAS UP WITH THAT
KENSUKE-DONO, ONCE AGAIN, THAT WAS A GOOD MATCH, WAS IT NOT?
DUELS ARE WONDERFUL THINGS, BETTER THAN ANYTHING ONE CAN DO ALONE
He resembles Imachi-sho very much.
UM, YOU KNOW,

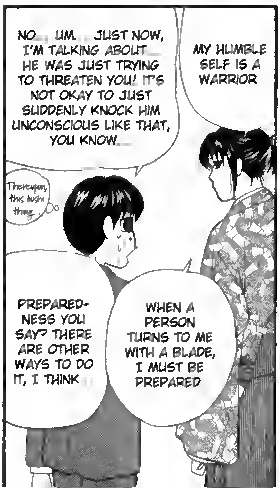
Bloody things like that just don't exist...
It's almost refreshing...
From the beginning, the way of the warrior was a way of survival.
Somehow, this kind of thing is different from the fights I usually see.
HUH...
As I thought, even if you fight, it's pointless.
Somehow, we were able to settle the problems and
Well whatever it is, all good even if this all is a little strange.

SWAT
ARE YOU SOME SORT OF IDIOT?
HEY WAIT, YOU! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU ABOUT?!
SHING SHING

VANISH, MENIAL SERVANT.

He's aiming it to kill...
Whoa, that looks like it hurts.
Well, whatever...
Elegantly and without any pieces.

20


NO... UM... JUST NOW, I'M TALKING ABOUT... HE WAS JUST TRYING TO THREATEN YOU! IT'S NOT OKAY TO JUST SUDDENLY KNOCK HIM UNCONSCIOUS LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW...
MY HUMBLE SELF IS A WARRIOR
That guy, this high strung...
PREPARED-NESS YOU SAY? THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO DO IT, I THINK
WHEN A PERSON TURNS TO ME WITH A BLADE, I MUST BE PREPARED

DOUSHIROU-KUN, YOU... WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU?

...
WHA.

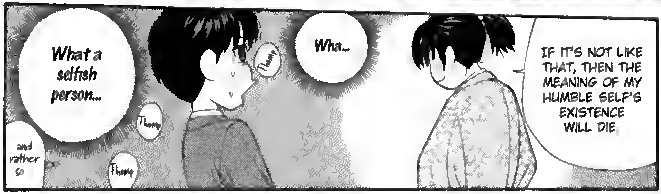
Huh?
So change!

So then in that, he came to...
SO, IN ORDER TO FIGHT, I HAVE COME TO JAPAN.
Waah...

It's because they're not needed! That kind of person is not needed in Japan!!
NO! That kind of person doesn't exist!!!!

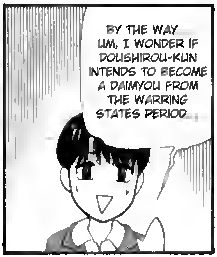
IT'S TOO BAD FOR MY HUMBLE SELF. BUT I AM MAN WHO IS ONLY ABLE TO FIGHT

THEY EXIST!
Thump
Thump
Thump
And with such a loud voice


What a selfish person...
and rather so
Thump
Thump
Thump
Wha...
IF IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, THEN THE MEANING OF MY HUMBLE SELF'S EXISTENCE WILL DIE

22

A TRUE WARRIOR DOES NOT FIGHT FOR HIS OWN SAKE
DON'T JOKE AROUND

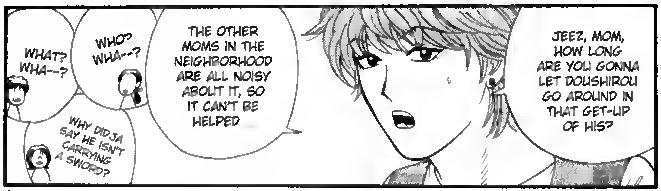

BY THE WAY UM, I WONDER IF DOUSHIROU-KUN INTENDS TO BECOME A DAIMYOU FROM THE WARRING STATES PERIOD

THEN, FOR WHOSE SAKE IS DOUSHIROU-KUN FIGHTING?
EVEN NOW, I AM STILL SEARCHING.

WELL THEN, FIGHT FOR MEEE~
Why me again? Because of this guy, people end up staring at me...
IT IS NOT SLACKISH
DON'T DO THAT. MEN ON THE STREET MAKE THAT FACE WHEN I PASS
ACCEPTED
THAT'S FINE
AHAHAHAHAHAHA, JUST KI-
24
Whoa... Somehow I feel that something very lucky has just happened...
AT LEAST UNTIL I FIND MY TRUE MASTER
For real, Kensuke?
Seriously!?!
WHAAAA?!?!

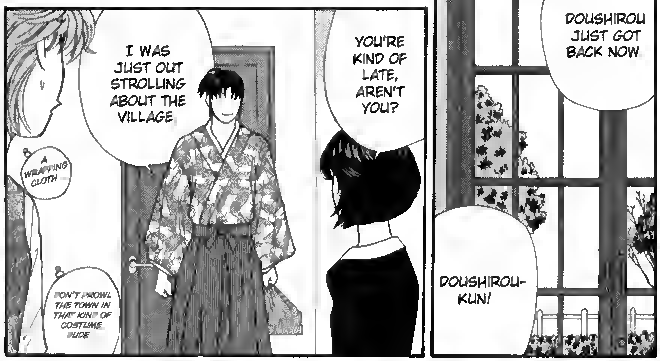
CHAPTER ◇4
SOMEHOW HE'S BECOME SO POPULAR IN THIS TOWN!

HE'S STILL NOT HOME, YOU KNOW
HEY HAVE YOU SEEN DOUSHIROU?
I'M HOME
Especially since school must surely be over by now
WELCOME HOME, REI-CHAN


WHAT? WHA--?
WHO? WHA--?
THE OTHER MOMS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD ARE ALL NOISY ABOUT IT, SO IT CAN'T BE HELPED
JEEZ, MOM, HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA LET DOUSHIROU GO AROUND IN THAT GET-UP OF HIS?
WHY DID JA SAY HE ISN'T CARRYING A SWORD?

2

HE'D BETTER BECOME HUMAN LIKE WE ARE ON THIS SIDE.
IF HE KEEPS IT UP LIKE THAT HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO MAKE ANY FRIENDS.
WELL, HE'D BETTER FORGET IT, ALREADY. IN JAPAN WE HAVE MODERN JAPANESE CULTURE
FOR SOME REASON SOMETHING FEELS WRONG
HOW THE HELL DID DAD RAISE HIM?
NOT AT ALL, MOM, NOT AT ALL
I GUESS IT WON'T WORK OUT, AFTER ALL, FROM WHAT I HEAR, HUH...?
HOW HE WAS RAISED IN AMERICA, I'VE NO IDEA, BUT...


DOUSHIROU JUST GOT BACK NOW
DOUSHIROU-KUN!
YOU'RE KIND OF LATE, AREN'T YOU?
I WAS JUST OUT STROLLING ABOUT THE VILLAGE
A WRAPPING CLOTH
I DON'T KNOW THE TOWN IN THAT KIND OF COSTUME, SURE

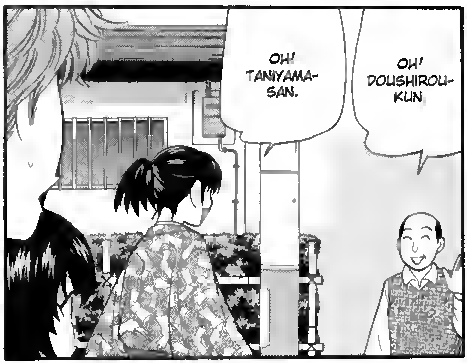
HEY, DOUSHIROU-KUN
WESTERN CLOTHES
SHALL WE . GO TO BUY SOME?

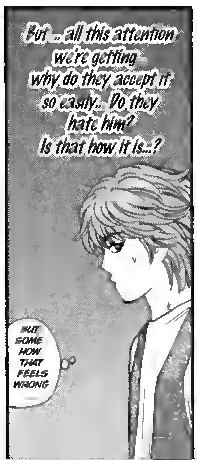
3

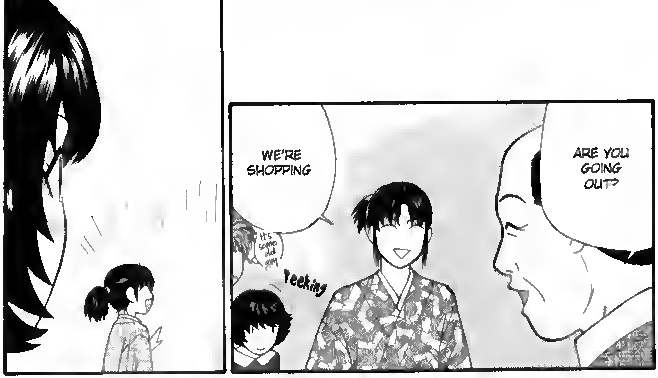
I DON'T NEED THEM.
YOUR MOTHER'S WORDS... YOU AREN'T LISTENING TO ME, ARE YOU...
I am listening!

Wha--?! Why did he agree so readily?!
AH... OH... NOTHING.
MM-HMM... WHAT'S WRONG, REI-CHAN?
WHA--?! YOU'RE GOING?!
Yes!
THEN, LET'S GO TO BUY SOME WESTERN CLOTHES

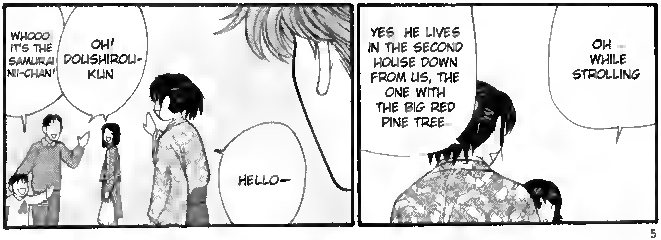
ラヤベーカリー
STARING STARING STARING, AH!? WE SEEM TO BE THE SOURCE OF THEIR FASCINATION


OH! TANIYAMA-SAN.
OH! DOUSHIROU-KUN


But ... all this attention we're getting why do they accept it so easily... Do they hate him? Is that how it is...?
BUT SOME HOW THAT FEELS WRONG

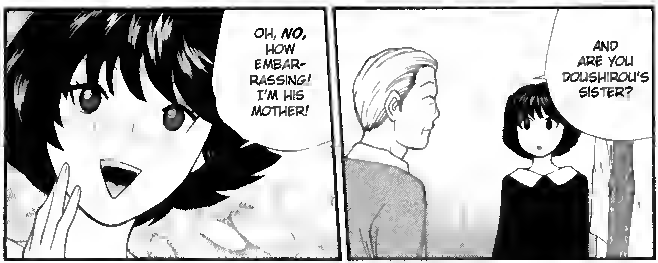

WE'RE SHOPPING
ARE YOU GOING OUT?
It's cute! Just like you!
Teeking

NO THIS MORNING WE BECAME ACQUAINTED WHILE I WAS STROLLING
SOMEONE FROM NEVADA?
DOUSHI-ROU-KUN, WHO'S THIS? COULD IT BE THAT'S

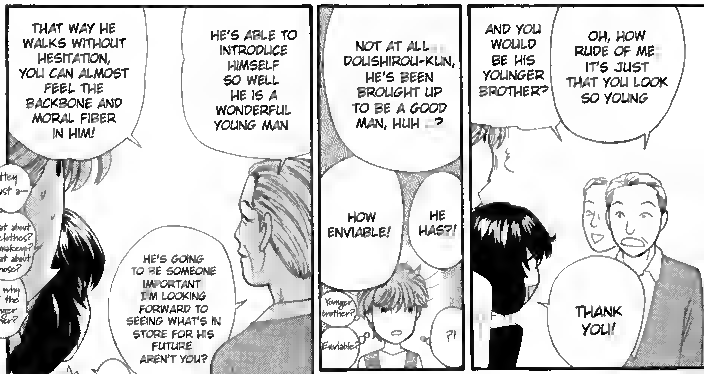

WHOOO IT'S THE SAKURA NII-CHAN!
OH! DOUSHIROU-KUN
HELLO—
YES HE LIVES IN THE SECOND HOUSE DOWN FROM US, THE ONE WITH THE BIG RED PINE TREE
OH WHILE STROLLING

HEY, NII-CHAN!
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS! IT'S A SAKURADA!
HEY, DOUSHIROU-KUN OVER HERE OVER HERE

He's making friends with everyone who lives here who is over ten years old.
He's making friends.

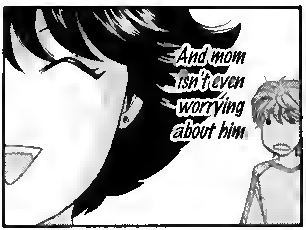

OH, NO, HOW EMBARRASSING! I'M HIS MOTHER!
AND ARE YOU DOUSHIROU'S SISTER?

6


THAT WAY HE WALKS WITHOUT HESITATION, YOU CAN ALMOST FEEL THE BACKBONE AND MORAL FIBER IN HIM!
HE'S ABLE TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF SO WELL HE IS A WONDERFUL YOUNG MAN
NOT AT ALL... DOUSHIROU-KUN, HE'S BEEN BROUGHT UP TO BE A GOOD MAN, HUH...?
AND YOU WOULD BE HIS YOUNGER BROTHER?
OH, HOW RUDE OF ME IT'S JUST THAT YOU LOOK SO YOUNG
Hey, wait a—
What about my clothes? His makeup? What about these?
And why am I the younger brother?
HE'S GOING TO BE SOMEONE IMPORTANT I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT'S IN STORE FOR HIS FUTURE AREN'T YOU?
Well
Aren't you looking forward to my future, too
HOW ENVIABLE!
HE HAS?!
Younger brother?
Enviable?
?!
THANK YOU!

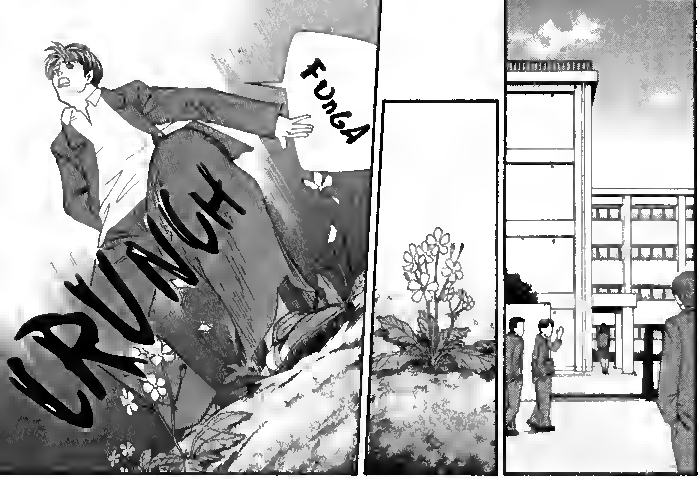
The good boy, Doushirou-kun, agreed so readily to go shopping for Western-style clothes for his mother.
So, the main point is that I wasn't able to be introduced
He doesn't have any moral fiber!
And he's not being magnificent!
And he's nothing to look forward to, either!!
A good boy.
As I thought, Doushirou is a good boy, after all!

THE NEXT DAY.

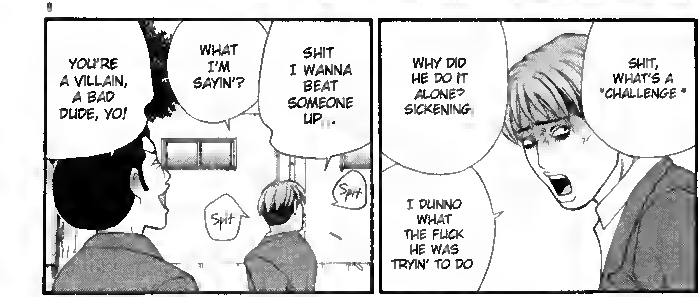

And mom isn't even worrying about him

What's up with that? What kind of person is he?
And according to the world and society, Doushirou is my older brother

I AM GOING NOW
Can't you see he's not wearing them?
HAVE A NICE TRIP!

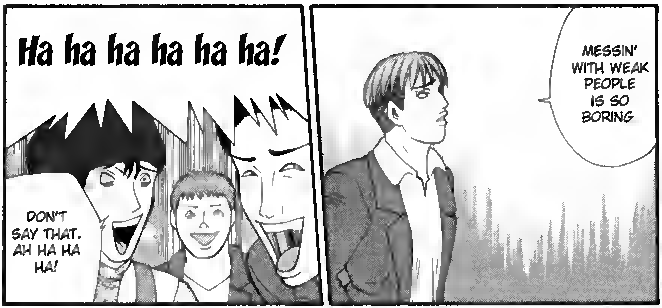

CRUNCH
FUNGA

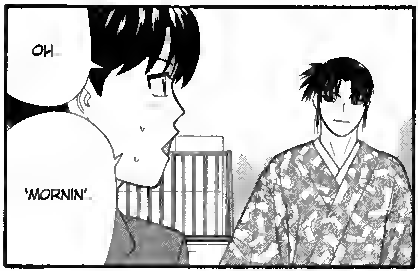
YESTERDAY, THAT SAMURAI WAS FUCKIN' WITH ME EVEN THOUGH HE HAD GUTS, HE WAS A REAL FUCKER, THAT'S IT.
YO, DUDE, YOU'RE LIKE SOME OUT-OF-CONTROL VILLIAN.
He's always a kind person.
IT'S STRESS STRESS.
FLOWERS SO ANNOYING! I'M NOT THE FUCKING WORST!!
FLOWERS... THEY'RE SO ANNOYING!
HA HA HA HA!
CRUNCH
CRUNCH


YOU'RE A VILLAIN, A BAD DUDE, YO!
WHAT I'M SAYIN'?
SHIT I WANNA BEAT SOMEONE UP...
Spit
Spit
WHY DID HE DO IT ALONE? SICKENING.
I DUNNO WHAT THE FUCK HE WAS TRYIN' TO DO
SHIT, WHAT'S A "CHALLENGE"

*Heidegger: Seiza is a formal sitting style, like the kid is doing in the next frame. It means "proper sitting."

I SWEAR I'M GONNA STOP BEING YOU GUYS' FRIEND
WHOA! THIS IS FUN!
YOU'RE SO STUPID. HA HA!
WHASSUP?
NOTHIN' IT'S THIS GUY
You serious?
Ha ha ha ha ha!
BUT, YO..


MESSIN' WITH WEAK PEOPLE IS SO BORING
Ha ha ha ha ha ha!
DON'T SAY THAT. AH HA HA HA!


OH...
'MORNIN'...

GOOD MORNING, KENSUKE-DONO

FOR SOME REASON SAYING "GOOD MORNING" BRIGHTENED HIM...
GOOD MORNING!
OH.
GOOD MORNING
WHAT SHALL WE DO, KENSUKE-DONO?
IS THERE SOMETHING THAT IS CAUSING A PROBLEM FOR YOU OR SOMETHING?
NO.
IF THERE IS EVER ANYTHING WHICH CAUSES YOU PROBLEMS— TELL ME, NO MATTER WHEN

"Tell me, no matter when."

This person is a good person, after all!
He's a good person!

IMAGE
I've managed to find a good person who is my friend!
HEY.

HEY, YOU GUYS, COME OVER HERE FOR A BIT
IT'S THE CONTINU-ATION OF YESTERDAY
WE'RE NOT CHEATIN' OR AGREEING TO ANYTHING, SO IT'S ALL RIGHT, RIGHT?

SEIZA!

AH AS I THOUGHT IT'S THOSE GUYS

FIRST OF ALL IS .
DO SEIZA!!
SEIZA!
SEI—
<SFX THUMM WUMPH!?
13

WHOA
WHEEZE
THUNK!

Y-YOU GONNA DO IT, YO...
SWISH
WHEEZE
SWISH
WHARP
THUMP
WHUMP

EVERYONE IS NOW PROSTRATING THEMSELVES AT HIS FEET BY WAY OF FAINTING IN AGONY
THIS IS LIKE ONE SECOND OF THE HISTORY OF JAPAN, HAH?
AHH
OWCH
URGH
WHEEZE
WHEEZE OH

15

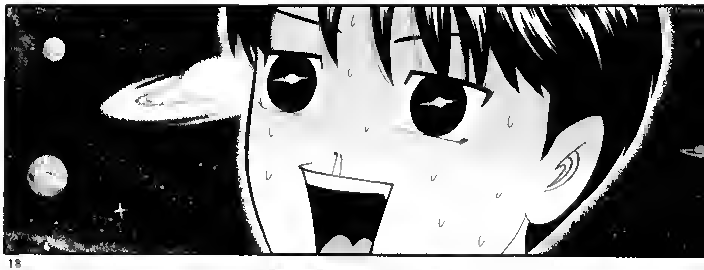
GOOD...
WHY... WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY GO AND HIT THEM?
I'VE GOT A QUESTION, BUT, UM..
YOU'RE NO LONGER GONNA DO CHALLENGE MATCHES?
UM...

Ah, dammit I'm letting my guard down...

Eh...
Oh... so is that how it is? He's choosing his friends...
YOU DO NOT EXPECT ME TO PARTICIPATE IN DUELS WITH JUST ANYONE, DO YOU?
I WILL NOT DO IT WITH THE TRASH
UM...
TRASH, HUH? HOW DO YOU... HOW DO YOU TELL THEM APART?
TRASH.
16
IS THAT ALWAYS RIGHT? WHAT PERCENT OF THE TIME ARE YOU ON THE MARK, WOULD YOU SAY?
100%
Wow
I CAN TELL.
IF YOU LOOK THEM IN THE EYES, YOU CAN TELL WHAT A PERSON IS

Wow.
AS EXPECTED OF A WAR HERO.
EH?
OR SO IS THE GREATNESS OF HAWKEYE
THAT MAN WAS A GREAT PERSON.
HAWKEYE?
SO-
JUST NOW THE IMAGE OF A HAWK CAME TO MY MIND
WOW... BUT, THEN, WHAT ABOUT YOU? HOW MANY PERCENT OF THE TIME ARE YOU RIGHT ROUGHLY?
HM...

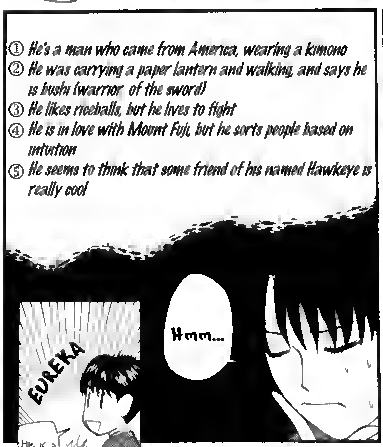
50%
UNTIL NOW I'M IN THE PROCESS OF FIXING THAT.



18

TOO TRUE. ISN'T IT? WELL, BE THAT AS IT MAY, IF I DON'T TRY THEN I'LL NEVER KNOW, RIGHT?
BUT... YOU'RE REALLY NOT—!!
People without worries are trash

You're a man with a wealth of facial expressions, aren't you?
THAT'S WHY I'M IMPROVING IT.
THAT'S JUST ORDINARY INTUITION! ISN'T THAT JUST SINK-OR-SWIM GUESSING?!
You shouldn't say it so confidently, then


① He's a man who came from America, wearing a kimono
② He was carrying a paper lantern and walking, and says he is bushi (warrior of the sword)
③ He likes meatballs, but he lives to fight
④ He is in love with Mount Fuji, but he sorts people based on intuition
⑤ He seems to think that some friend of his named Hawkeye is really cool
Hmm...
EUREKA
He is a strange dude!

Who the hell... Is this guy?!
Calm down! Think! I am a quiet and composed man!

Everything's time's destiny
WELL, WHATEVER. IF I'M MISTAKEN, THAT IS THAT
Who ...?!

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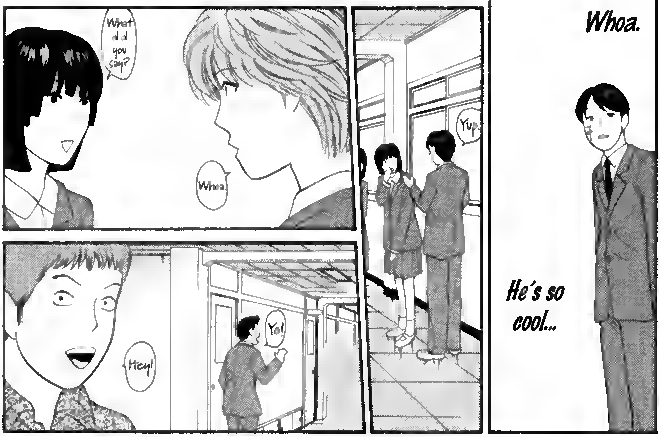
CHAPTER 5

DOUSHIROU, YOU'RE SO SHARP!

MYUU
KYUU
PIYUU
HE'S LIKE EL NIÑO.
SWISH

SWISH
SWISH
SWISH


What'd you say?
Whoa.
Yup.
Yo!
Hey!
Whoa.
He's so cool...

What could it be?
I don't get it.

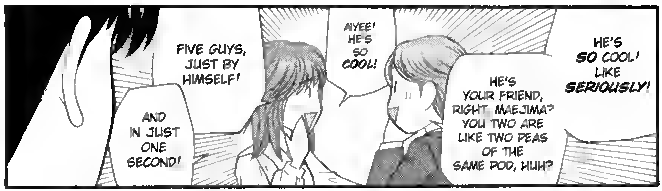
3

YOU GOT HAD, DUDE.
AND BY SOME SAMURAI-LOOKING STUDENT, TOO.
OH.
Why the hell is that guy so cool?!

LET'S GO.
Those guys aren't really so quick on the uptake.
.....
4
HEY, KOSAKA.
UM...
ABOUT KIRII-KUN... HE'S A REALLY NICE GUY, WE HEAR, SO ..
He likes rice balls. He's crazy about Japan and dolls. He's bushi*. He's random and only thinks of himself...
It's no good, I guess. No matter what I do, he doesn't act like a normal person huh.
I LIKE AS HE'S STRANGE AFTER ALL...
*Bushi: a person who practices the ways of a samurai

EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE FIVE OF THEM, WE HEARD THAT HE FINISHED THEM ALL IN THE TIME IT TOOK YOU TO SAY, "AH!"
HE FINISHED FIVE GUYS IN ONE FLAT SECOND
AND BY JUST USING HIS INTUITION TO BOOT

YOU SAY THAT HE BEAT UP THE PEOPLE IN THE SCHOOL YARD, WHO WERE HARASSING YOU
WE "ACCIDENTLY" OVER-HEARD
HUH?
A nice guy?!
Do they mean Doushirou?
WHAT A THOUGHT-FUL GUY!

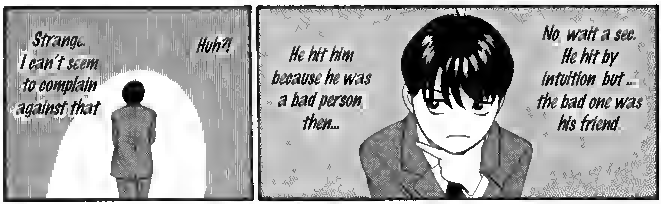

FIVE GUYS, JUST BY HIMSELF!
AND IN JUST ONE SECOND!
AIYEE! HE'S SO COOL!
HE'S YOUR FRIEND, RIGHT MAEJIMA? YOU TWO ARE LIKE TWO PEAS OF THE SAME POD, HUH?
HE'S SO COOL! LIKE SERIOUSLY!

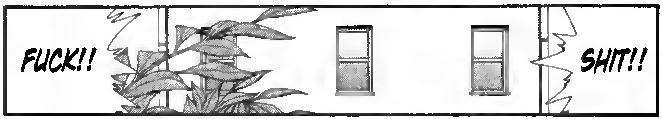
I WAS WONDERING IF HE WAS A GOOD GUY OR NOT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, BUT...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYIN'?! HE'S NICE, ISN'T HE?!
HE BEAT UP THE BAD GUYS WHO WERE DESTROYING THE GARDEN
HE WAS JUST BEING THOUGHTFUL AND GOT REVENGE FOR YOU
AND THE WAY HE INTRODUCED HIMSELF WAS GREAT! HIS GETUP'S KINDA COOL TOO
HE'S SO STRAIGHT-FORWARD!

I WONDER, IS DOUSHIROU-KUN REALLY A NICE GUY...?
HEY, UM...

WELL... HA HA... HEH... I WOULDN'T SAY WE'RE GOOD FRIENDS...
WHY ARE YOU SUCH GOOD FRIENDS WITH KIRIU-KUN, KOSAKA?
THEY CALLED ME OUT AND THEN IGNORED ME. (NOT COOL.)

It's just a coincidence. It just so happens that the guys he hit were bad.
Surely, they must be wrong. I don't think Youshirou was beating up those guys because of that. I'm sure of it.


Strange. I can't seem to complain against that.
Huh?!
He hit him because he was a bad person then...
No, wait a sec. He hit by intuition but... the bad one was his friend.

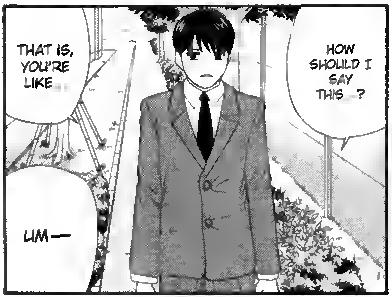

FUCK!!
SHIT!!

DON'T FUCK WITH ME, MAN. ARE YOU SAYING I GOT FINISHED WITH JUST ONE BLOW?
HE PLAYED DIRTY.
THIS TIME, LET'S GO FROM HERE.
I'LL FUCKING KILL HIM!
IT WAS PROBABLY BECAUSE HE CAME AT US TOO QUICKLY.
SHIT. THAT BASTARD... SHIT!!

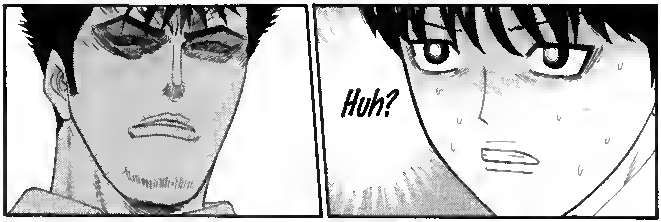
THAT GUY ..
ISN'T HE JUST STRONG?
BUT HE'S ALSO SO RANDOM!
THERE WERE FIVE OF US!
Scrape
ARE YOU SAYING WE WERE IRRESPON-SIBLE?!
YOU'RE NOT SAYING THAT HE DID US IN WITH ONE PUNCH, RIGHT?

THAT GUY'S — SOME-THIN' ..
IS THAT WHY GUYS LIKE MAE-CHAN AND SHIBAYAMA ARE GRADUALLY GETTING STRIPPED AWAY OF THEIR POWER?

it's his intuition, but it's right on the mark. But
HEY!
WHAT THE FUCK KIND OF PERSON IS HE?
WHY DOES HE ALWAYS WALK AROUND WITH A SPATULA STUCK TO HIS BACK?
WHAT?
IS HE JUST TOYING WITH ME?!
WHAT THE FUCK IS A CHALLENGE?!
WHAT DID YA PLAN TO DO?


THAT IS, YOU'RE LIKE...
HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS...?
UM—

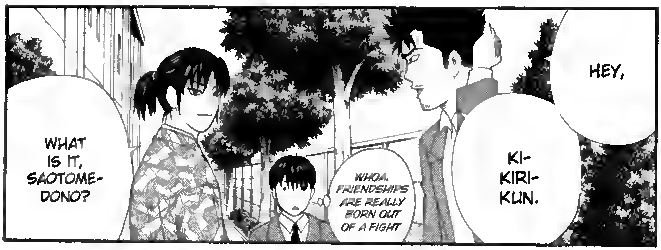
He's scary
UM...
ARE YOU ASKING IF HE'S MESSING WITH YOU OR NOT...? DOUSHIROU-KUN, I MEAN...
UM... FOR HIM YOU'RE...


Huh?

HE SEEMS TO THINK THAT YOU'RE MAN ENOUGH.
WELL, THEN... IS IT WORTH IT TO CHALLENGE PEOPLE?

Actually, everything Doushirou does is based on a sink-or-swim kind of intuition!
NO, YOU SEEM TO BE MAN ENOUGH TO WANT A REAL FIGHT.
OH, I SEE NOW...
10
GLARE
THERE'S M-MERIT IN ME...?

PFFT!
YOU SEEM LIKE YOU WANNA SKIP
HE'S JUST SAYING THAT 'CAUSE HE WON, HUH...
HELLO, SAOTOME-DONO
!
!
Ah... I have a feeling that they'll become friends...


HEY,
KI-KIRI-KUN.
WHOA. FRIENDSHIPS ARE REALLY BORN OUT OF A FIGHT
WHAT IS IT, SAOTOME-DONO?

I... UH, I'M NOT CALLED SAOTOME...
PEOPLE REALLY CALL ME MAEJIMA...

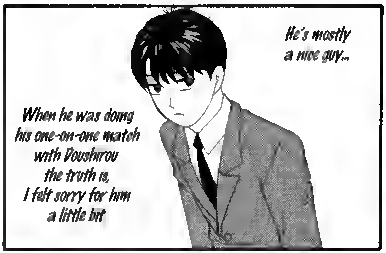
JUST NOW..
WHAT DID YOU UTTER JUST NOW?
I'M JUST SAYING THAT I'M CALLED MAEJIMA, NOT SAOTOME.
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT, YOU BASTARD?!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'VE JUST DONE?!
YOU BASTARD, YOU LIED ABOUT YOUR NAME BEFORE A MATCH. THAT'S—!
YOU BASTARD!

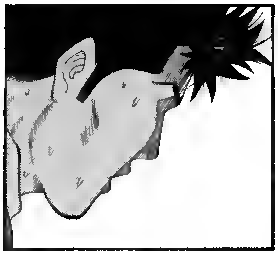
WERE YOU TRYING...
...TO BELITTLE THE CHALLENGE THAT THIS HUMBLE SELF, THIS DOUSHIROU, HAD BROUGHT TO YOU?
NO...
AT THAT TIME, I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO SAY MY REAL NAME.
SILENCE, YOU LOWLY FIEND!
EVEN IF, BY SOME CHANCE, YOU WERE SOMEHOW TIRED OF YOUR LIFE AT THAT TIME WHEN I CHALLENGED YOU, SO YOU GAVE ME A FAKE NAME,
IN MY MEMORIES, EVEN ON YOUR TOMBSTONE,
13
I had forever engraved your name as Saotome!!
He even thought so far as to the inscription on a person's tombstone, huh.
NO, BUT—
QUIET! YOU'RE TOO NOISY!

WITH SUCH MISCONDUCT,
I BET YOU MISTOOK ME, DOUSHIROU, FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU WITH ALL OF YOUR LOWLY WAYS AND CHALLENGES, HUH.
YOU'RE A PIECE OF TRASH!
Ah! What true wisdom!

HE GOT DONE FOR
Whew

SWISH
SWISH
SWISH


When he was doing his one-on-one match with Doushirou the truth is, I felt sorry for him a little bit
He's mostly a nice guy...

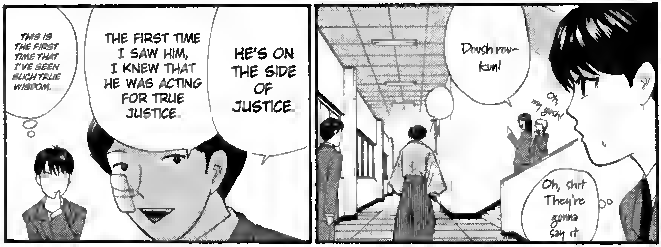


15

Oh? How so?
I'M ... A BAD PERSON.

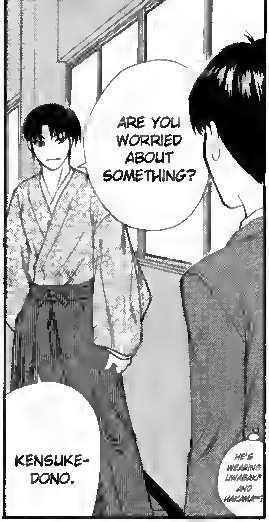
I REALLY SHOULDN'T GET INVOLVED BUT
UM... I DON'T REALLY CARE BUT WELL, DOUSHIROU'S REALLY A NICE GUY
UM... HEY...
I'M SO BAD.

Is it really that low... to lie about your name?
Does that make him trash? I would have said, "Well, whatever." Does that make me trash, too?
I'M SO LOW.
Oh, really?
I'M TRASH.
WHEN WE HAD THAT REAL HONEST MATCH, TO THINK THAT I LIED...
WHOA.
SHIT!

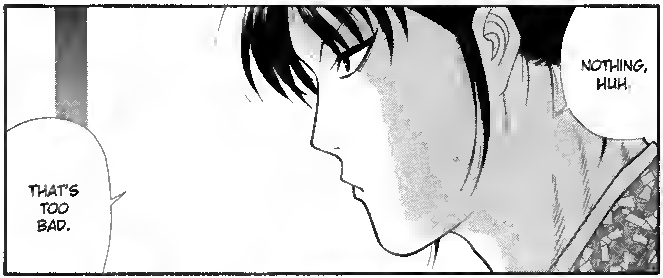

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT I'VE BEEN MUCH TRUE WISDOM...
THE FIRST TIME I SAW HIM, I KNEW THAT HE WAS ACTING FOR TRUE JUSTICE.
HE'S ON THE SIDE OF JUSTICE.
Doushirou-kun!
Oh, good.
Oh, shit! They're gonna say it

16

Click
...Is Doushirou...
...on the side of justice...? For real? I wonder...

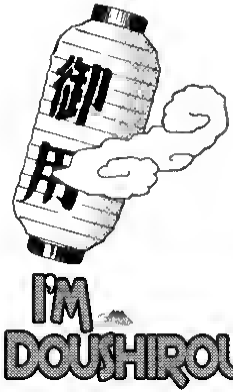


*Uwabaki: hallway slippers. **Hakama: pleated skirt for men



STOMP

Hey, don't come out and say that
Hey, these are the people you beat up before
But why are you smiling, Doushirou-kun?!



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CHAPTER ◇ 6
COWARD!

WHAT TRANSPIRES?

This isn't a situation in which you can laugh.
It's because everyone is smiling.
You're wrong, Youshirou

2

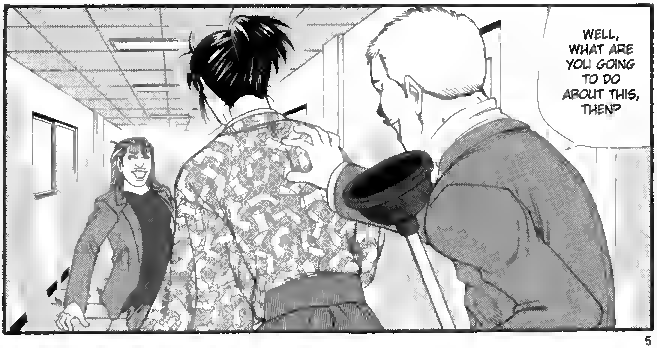
What the hell is so funny, you bastards?!
FLAP
HEH, HEH, HEH.
No matter how strong you are, or how smart you act, you can't beat so many people.
WEREN'T WE GOING TO FIGHT FRANKFULLY BY WITHOUT MAKING ANYONE ANGRY?
He's also smiling.

So, he's letting his great strength distract him, eh?
!!
Swish
SMACK
Take this!!
I'M NUMBER ONE!

SWISH
Shiver

KICKING SOMEONE FROM BEHIND...
...IS COWARDLY.
YOU KNAVE!

YOU...
COWARD!

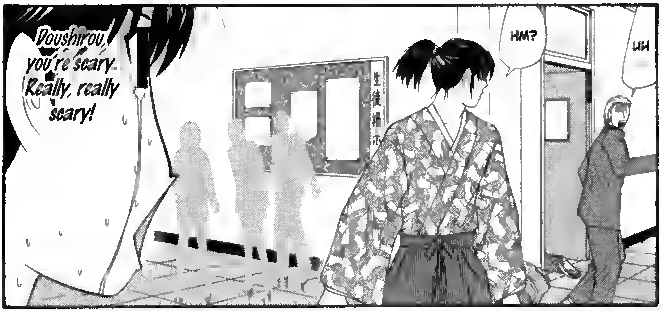

WELL, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS, THEN?

CRASH
WHAM
YOU BASTARD!

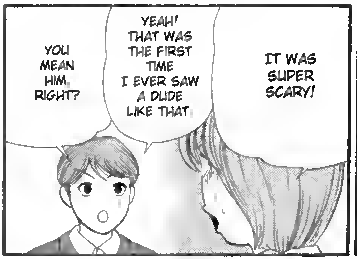
STEP
Pant
STEP
Pant
Pant
Urg
CRACK
Ugh
BANG
CRASH
TH
UD
Wha
COWARDLY KNAVE!
Yahh!
STEP
STEP
YOU!
Eek
Wahhh!
... WRETCHED CAITIFF!
WHY...
YOU...

YOU COWARDLY CUR!

Fwsh


Doushirou, you're scary. Really, really scary!
HM?
UH

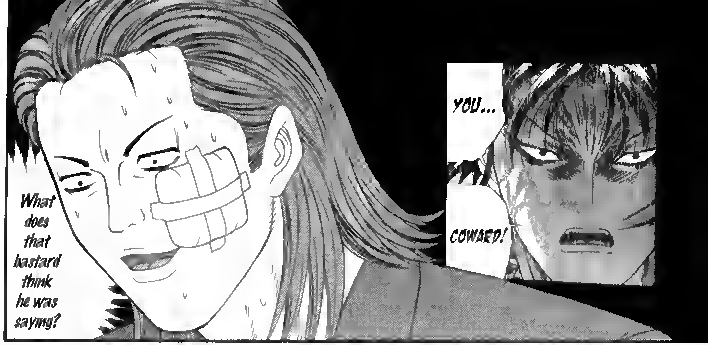
IT WAS AMAZING! HE RAN DOWN THE GUY WHO KICKED HIM FROM BEHIND.
HE WAS LIKE A TANK!
IF HE CAME MY WAY, I'M SURE I'D PISS MYSELF
WHAT WAS RIPPED APART?
HE WAS THROWING AND RIPPING STUFF ALL OVER!
THEN, SOMEONE TRIED TO BLOCK HIM FROM BEHIND.
The next day..
...everyone in school knew about this legend.


YOU MEAN HIM, RIGHT?
YEAH! THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER SAW A DUDE LIKE THAT
IT WAS SUPER SCARY!

Ah, it looks like they've gotten a long-awaited popularity
BUT IT REALLY IS AMAZINGLY SCURY

What?
AND ME——
OH, ME, TOO!
I'M SO IN LOVE WITH HIM!

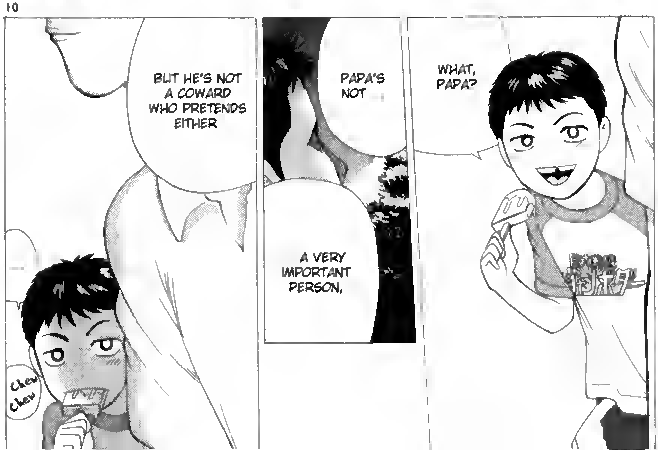
So, he called me an enemy of his parents.
And a coward...
What was he so pissed about?
That's the first time I've ever seen anyone that pissed.
That was scary.


What does that bastard think he was saying?
YOU...
COWARD!

COWARD!
COWARD.
COWARD.
COWARD.
COWARD.
COWARD.
COWARD.
COWARD.

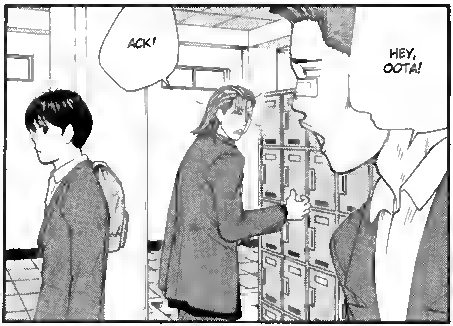
HEY, TAKASHI

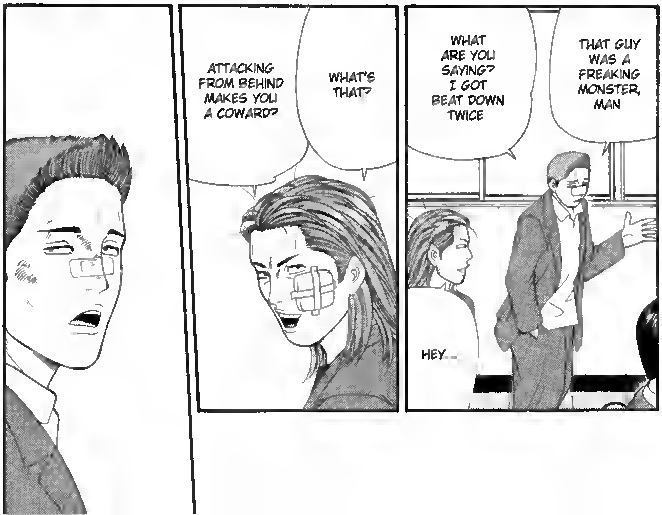
IS IT GOOD?
Shine
Chi.. Chi..
YES


BUT HE'S NOT A COWARD WHO PRETENDS EITHER
Chew Chew
PAPA'S NOT
A VERY IMPORTANT PERSON,
WHAT, PAPA?

I'M TRASH...
Am I just a cowardly bastard?
Coward...
WHAT TRASH?

BUT, SHIRAYAMA REALLY GOT HIS ASS HANDED TO HIM EASILY.
HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MAN? WE GOT OUR ASSES KICKED YESTERDAY
YESTERDAY THAT GUY LOOKED INCOMPETENT.


ACK!
HEY, OOTA!

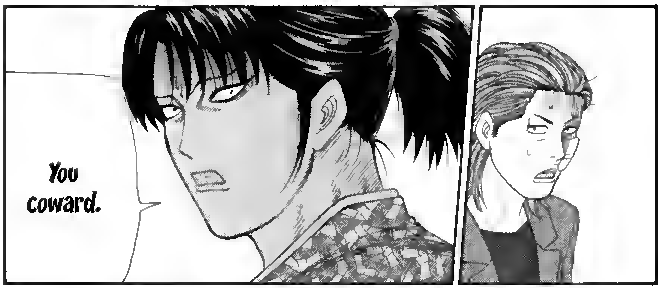

ATTACKING FROM BEHIND MAKES YOU A COWARD?
WHAT'S THAT?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I GOT BEAT DOWN TWICE
THAT GUY WAS A FREAKING MONSTER, MAN
HEY...

WELL, YEAH... IT PROBABLY DOES
I MEAN IT REALLY IS DIRTY
OH YEAH THAT MEANS YOU'RE IN THE BAD
depressed
SEE YA.
YOU CAN'T SAY IT'S NOT COWARDLY
HEY, IT'S THAT GUY
THE COWARDLY GUY WHO ATTACKS FROM BEHIND!
EH? FROM BEHIND?

12

HE SURROUNDED KIRYOU WITH ALL HIS FRIENDS, AND THEN.
LIKE A COWARD, HE ATTACKED FROM BEHIND!
FROM BEHIND!
WHOA!
THAT REALLY IS COWARDLY!
I HATE PEOPLE LIKE THAT
Whisper
Whisper
Whisper
FROM BEHIND?
THAT'S SO HORRIBLE!

A... ah!
If I'm not mistaken he attacked Doushirou from behind and was called a coward like something out of the past
So that's it then..
Take no initiat..
Nowadays, isn't that not really considered as much of a big deal?
It's a bit strange


You coward.

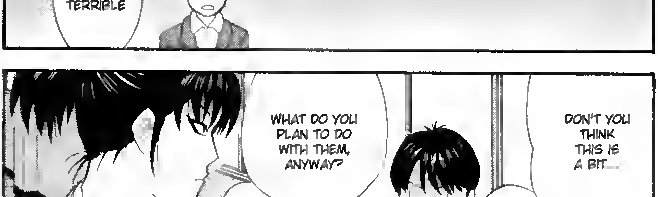
13

Every time Doushirou meets him...

Doesn't anyone else find it strange the way he talks like he's from the past or something?
WHAT THE HELL?
GOOD MORNING KENSUKE-DONO

Sigh
TRASH
...agrees with him.
Cur!
Caitiff!
WHAT WAS HE THINKING?
And everyone in the school...
DESPI CABLE!
Coward!

HOW TERRIBLE

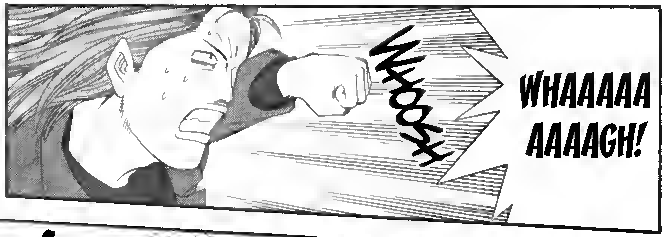

WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH THEM, ANYWAY?
DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS A BIT...
DO YOU PLAN TO DRIVE THEM INTO A CORNER?
CRUEL, DOUSHIROU-KUN?

D-DON'T SAY THAT!
SASUGA KENSLIKE-DONO, I PLAN TO KILL THEM.
ACK

THEY HAVE LIVES, TOO, YOU KNOW.

YOU COWARD
IT'S HIM! IT'S THAT GUY WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE A COWARD!
EVERYONE SAYS HE ATTACKED DOUSHIROU FROM BEHIND
THAT'S WHAT I HEARD...
15
SHIT...
DOUSHIROU-KUN...
KIRIU DOUSHIROU!
COME ON, LET'S DO IT!
COME HERE!
BRING IT, YOU LITTLE BASTARD!
COME HERE, YOU BASTARD!

EN GARDE!
TELL ME YOUR NAME
EH...
OOTA. OOTA TAKASHI.

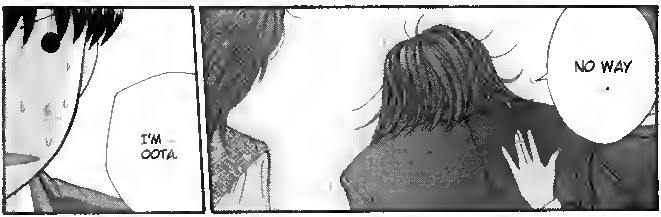

WHOOSH
WHAAAAA AAAAGH!

FROOMP

He was going easy on him!
Well, at least I think this will make a good story...
Whack
CRASH
BANG
SMASH

Slide—
IT'S OVER,
OOTA-DONO.
THANK GOD.

THAT'S REALLY GREAT!
NO MATTER HOW YOU PUT IT, BEING BEAT UP THAT BADLY CAN'T BE "GREAT."


I'M—OOTA.
NO WAY

MAYBE I'M NOT SO BAD OF A PERSON...
No, but there seems to be some kind of agreement...
No, wait a sec. Is it really?
I'M SUCH A BAD PERSON...
And besides, what'll happen with that?
I'M TRASH
It's a happy ending!
THAT'S A GOOD NAME!
That's my dad's name.
YEAH! YEAH!
WOW, HE'S SO BRAVE!
Sniffle

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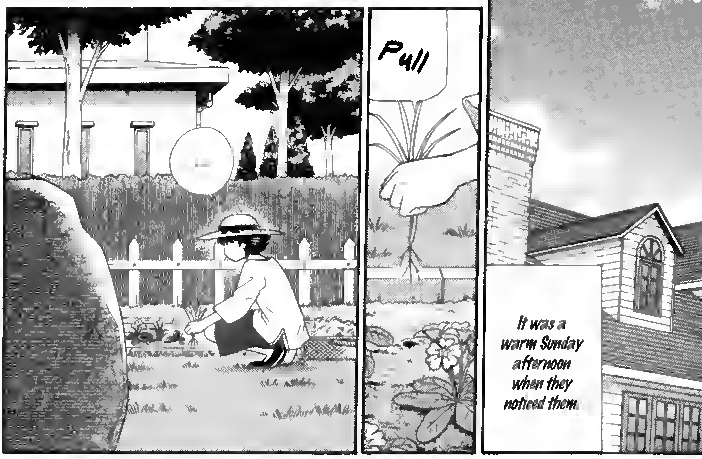
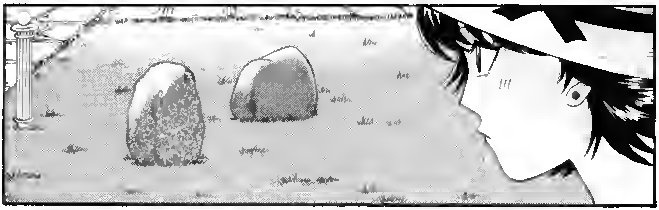
CHAPTER ◇ 7

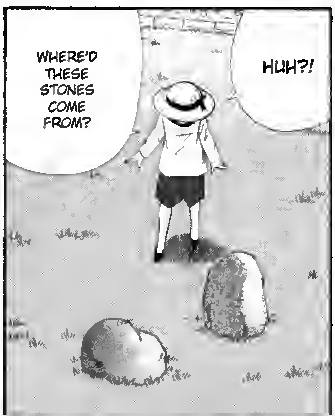
THE STONES OF THE GARDEN


Pull
It was a warm Sunday afternoon when they noticed them.


!!!

2

ARE YOU PULLING WEEDS? I'LL HELP
I'M HOME, MAMA
THANKS


WHERE'D THESE STONES COME FROM?
HUH?!

YOU'RE RIGHT
MAYBE SOMEONE DUMPED THEM HERE
YEAH. I WONDER WHO
SAY, REI-CHAN, DID YOU BUY SOME STONES?
STONES?
WHY WOULD I DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
IT DOESN'T MATTER, REI-CHAN CAN YOU MOVE THEM?
PUT THEM IN THAT CORNER
SURE
HUMPH
IT'S PRETTY BIG
Kahhh!
Nsh...
Nsh...

HOW—
Oh!
SPIN
Tremble
Kwahh!
Tremble
Tremble
EFuu
MmRG!
Tremble
Tremble
He could easily carry them
Doushirou could do it.
Grab
I just have that feeling.
WHERE DO YOU WANT ME TO LEAVE THEM, MOTHER?
4
REI-CHAN, WHY DON'T WE GO BUY SOME DOUGHNUTS?
DO-DOUGHNUT
THIS CLOUD LOOKS LIKE A DOUGHNUT
How foolish Maria.
Poor boy
It was wrong to ask him. Can't you see he's not strong enough?

I will train so I'll be able to lift them.
Thanks, Mama, for giving me time.
It was a peaceful family.
SURE
Mama.

And the day ended peacefully on Sakurayama, Block 1.

AH, IT'S KIRIU-KUN
EH? DOUSHIROU, THE FAMOUS ONE?
WHERE? WHERE? I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM YET
WOW, HE REALLY DOES WEAR A KIMONO WEIRD
IT'S NOT WEIRD.
IT SUITS HIM.
WELL, IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE HIM IN ANYTHING ELSE
WHO'S THAT NEXT TO HIM?
THAT'S KENSUKE.
WHY ISN'T HE WEARING A KIMONO?
BECAUSE IT DOESN'T SUIT HIM.

BUT IT SEEMS LIKE FUN
DON'T YOU THINK? HE CERTAINLY CATCHES YOUR EYE
MAYBE I SHOULD WEAR A KIMONO TOO
YOU SCUM
PRETTY HARSH WORDS FOR SO EARLY IN THE MORNING
HE SAID "SCUM" TO MAEJIMA
WELL, YEAH. MAEJIMA OUGHT TO BE CALLED SCUM
IF HE SAYS SO IT'S SO
DOUSHIROU-KUN, HE FEELS BAD ENOUGH'S ENOUGH, DON'T YOU THINK?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, KENSUKE-DONO
HE BETRAYED ME
HE LIED TO ME
Thudge
Thudge
OH, A LIE
HE BETRAYED HIM
WHAT A JERK

I WILL NOT FORGIVE HIM
HE LIED TO ME
THIS IS DIFFERENT
I CAN'T TURN BACK
He's acting all cool, but it was such a little thing.
"SPILLED WATER CAN'T BE PUT BACK IN THE PAN."
IT'S LIKE HE'LL NEVER GET OVER IT

I WILL NOT FORGIVE HIM!
H-HEY, IF HE CHALLENGED YOU, TOO, WOULD YOU FORGIVE HIM?

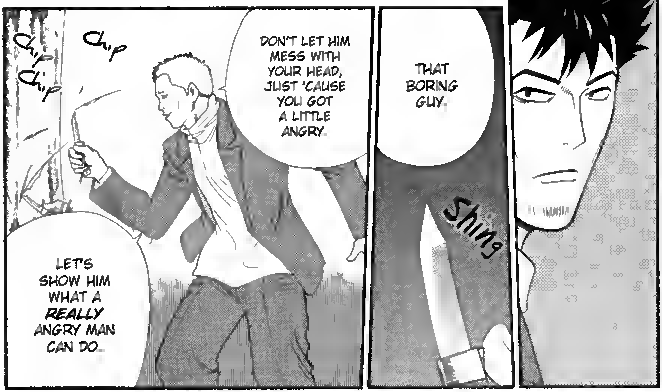
I DON'T GET IT HE BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF YOU, BUT YOU'RE ACTING ALL HAPPY TO SEE HIM
SUDDENLY THEY'RE TALKING ALL FRIENDLY
HI, OOTA-DONO

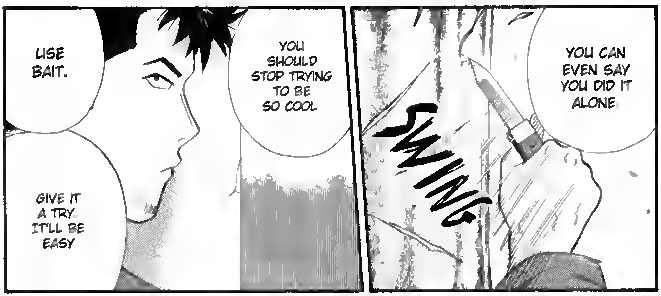
KIRIU-KUN
UM, HI,

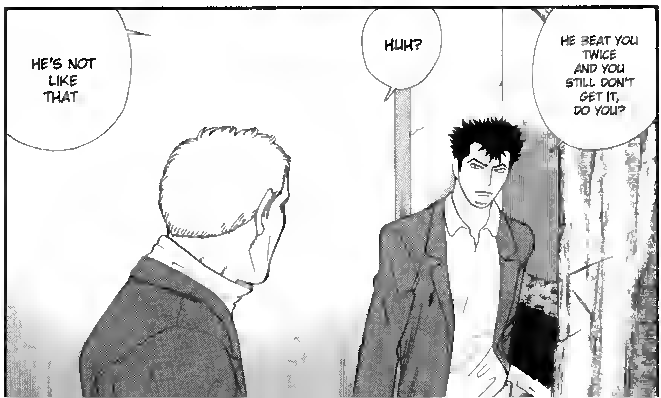
...is Doushirou Magic!
This...

He's turned popular!
OOTA-KUN, WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WITH KIRIU-KUN?
JUST SMALL TALK.
JUST YESTERDAY EVERYONE CALLED YOU THE DECEIVER.

I'M SCUM.
Grab
LET'S KILL HIM.
IT'LL BE EASY...
...IF YOU AND I GET TOGETHER
SOME GUY CALLS YOU SCUM AND YOU'RE JUST GONNA TAKE IT?

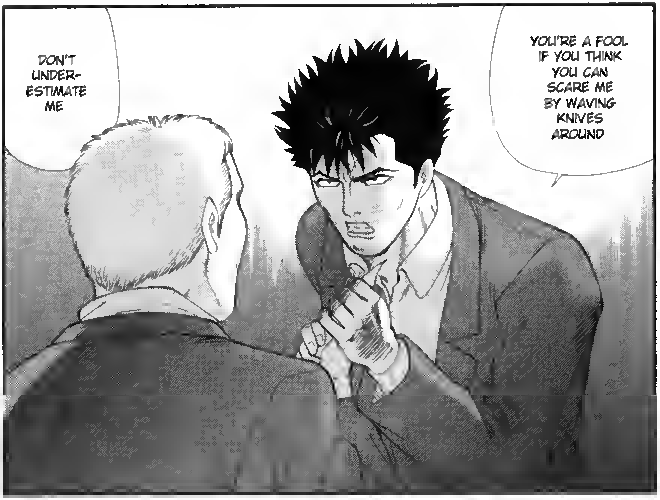

Chip
Chip-Chip
DON'T LET HIM MESS WITH YOUR HEAD, JUST 'CAUSE YOU GOT A LITTLE ANGRY.
LET'S SHOW HIM WHAT A REALLY ANGRY MAN CAN DO.
THAT BORING GUY.
Shing


USE BAIT.
YOU SHOULD STOP TRYING TO BE SO COOL.
GIVE IT A TRY. IT'LL BE EASY
SWING
YOU CAN EVEN SAY YOU DID IT ALONE.


HE'S NOT LIKE THAT.
HUH?
HE BEAT YOU TWICE AND YOU STILL DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?

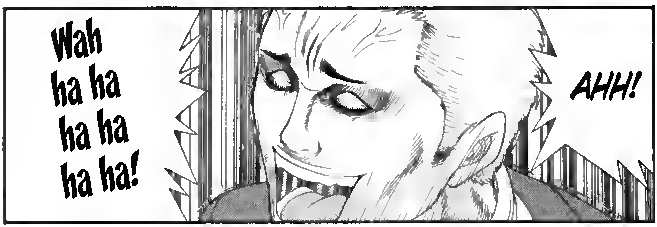
Spit
EVEN IF I DID HAVE SOME KIND OF WEAPON...
HE'S NOT THE KIND OF GUY YOU CAN BEAT.
YOU'RE MISERABLE. YOU'VE STARTED TO FEEL FEAR.
HEH
FUCKIN' CHICKEN

GRAB
SCARED, AREN'T YOU?
LITTLE MAE-COWARD

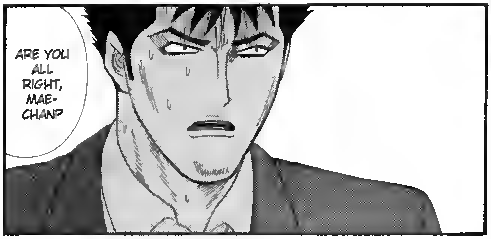

DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME
YOU'RE A FOOL IF YOU THINK YOU CAN SCARE ME BY WAVING KNIVES AROUND

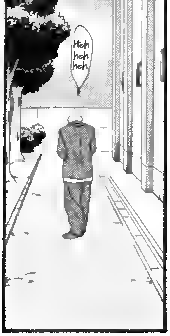
HE SEEMS LIKE FUN.
I'M NOT SCARED.
I'M WAITING

SLASH
YOU!


Wah ha ha ha ha ha!
AHH!

GAMES LIKE THESE AREN'T WON BY THE STRONGEST.
EXPECT THE UN-EXPECTED.
SLOSH
SLOSH
YOU'RE THE ONE UNDER-ESTIMATING ME, LITTLE BOY.
IF YOU HADN'T LET GO, YOUR FINGER'D BE FLYIN'.


ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MAE-CHAN?


Hah hah hah

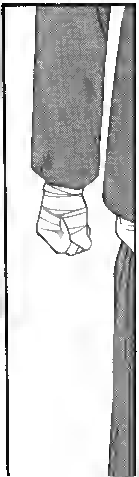
13

BUT THIS IS NO JOKE!
THAT'D BE LOW, MAN. HOW COULD I DO THAT?
HE MIGHT CUT HIM FOR REAL!

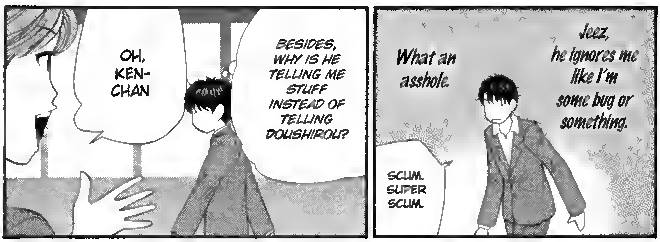
WOW, THAT LOOKS BAD.
KOISHI-KAWA
ARE YOU SURE?
IF YOU TOLD A TEACHER ABOUT THIS, YOU COULD GET THAT GUY EXPELLED.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. IT JUST PEELED THE SKIN.

ER.
SEE YA.
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE A SCUM.

SO, JUST TELL THAT NARROW-HEARTED GUY.
...



I don't need to hear that from you
SHUT UP!
Yikes!


OH, KEN-CHAN
BESIDES, WHY IS HE TELLING ME STUFF INSTEAD OF TELLING DOUSHIROU?
What an asshole.
Jeez, he ignores me like I'm some bug or something.
SCUM. SUPER SCUM.

14

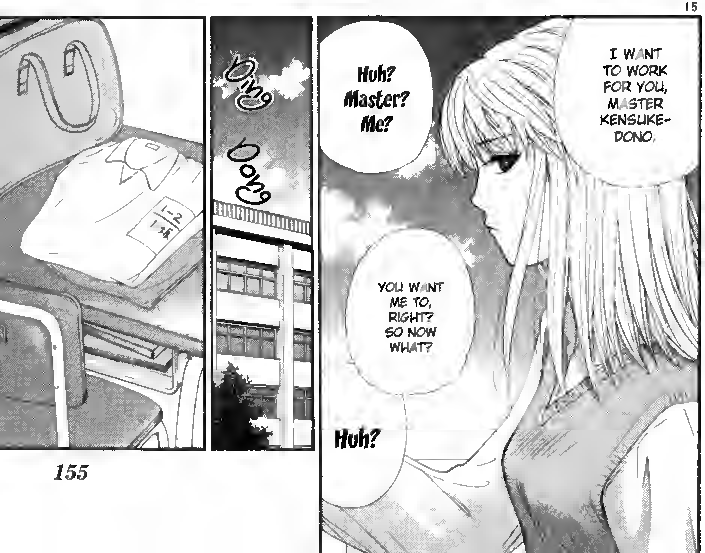
HE'S A FRIEND OF KIRIU-KUN
HUH? WHO?
He wasn't that rude.
DOUSHIROU-KUN WAS LOOKING FOR YOU
KEN-CHAN?

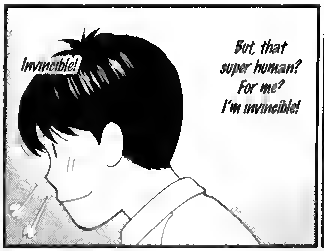
I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
OH, KENSUKE-DONO
Hmm.
THAT'S KEN-SUKE?

HEH SHE CALLED ME KEN-CHAN. MORE OF THAT DOUSHIROU MAGIC.
Click

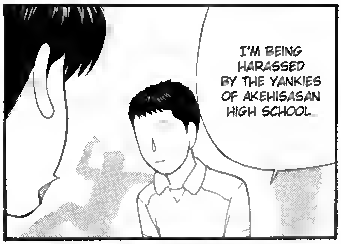
HAVE YOU SEEN THE TEA STORE GUY'S DAUGHTER BEING MOLESTED?
IS IT ABOUT SOME BAD GUYS?
OH, GREAT! WHAT IS IT?
NO...
HE'S NOT GOING TO STAND ON THE HANDRAIL TODAY
YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT, HUH?
YEAH.
MAN, HE WASN'T-NT YOU CAN'T SEE MT. FUJI TODAY
LOOKING FOR ME?
WHAT?!
HA HA HA! THAT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT AS THE SAYING GOES "DON'T STOP" ANYONE WHO COMES TOWARD YOU *
IT'S NOT NICE TO LOOK AT EXCITED WHEN YOU MEAN I'M WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING

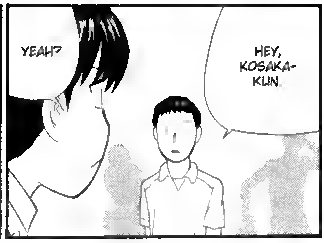
15

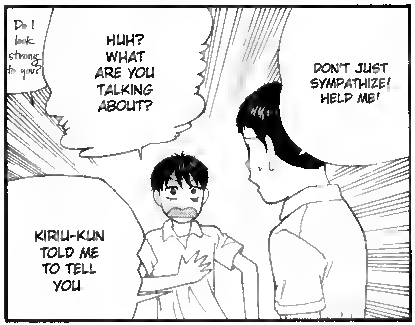

Ding
Dong
I WANT TO WORK FOR YOU, MASTER KENSUKE-DONO.
Huh? Master? Me?
YOU WANT ME TO, RIGHT? SO NOW WHAT?
Huh?


Invincible!
But that super human? For me? I'm invincible!

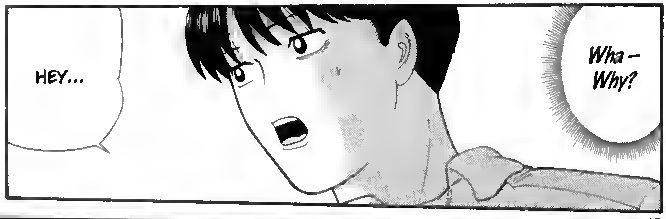
I get it That explains why he's always hanging around me.
What he was talking about? That was for real


I'M BEING HARASSED BY THE YANKIES OF AKEHISASAN HIGH SCHOOL


YEAH?
HEY, KOSAKA-KUN

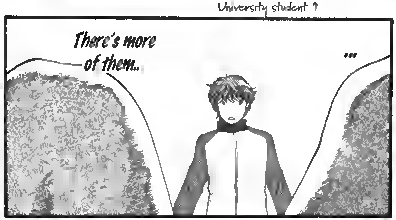

Do I look strong to you?
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DON'T JUST SYMPATHIZE! HELP ME!
KIRIU-KUN TOLD ME TO TELL YOU

THAT'S TERRIBLE
THAT'S REALLY A BIG GANG

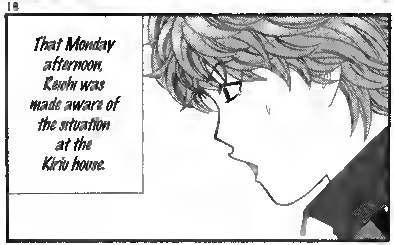

HEY...
Wha–
Why?

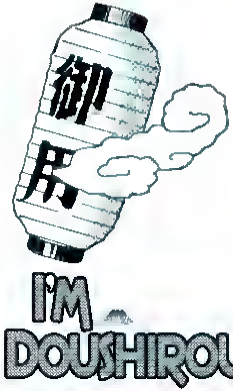
WWWOW!

University student ?



18





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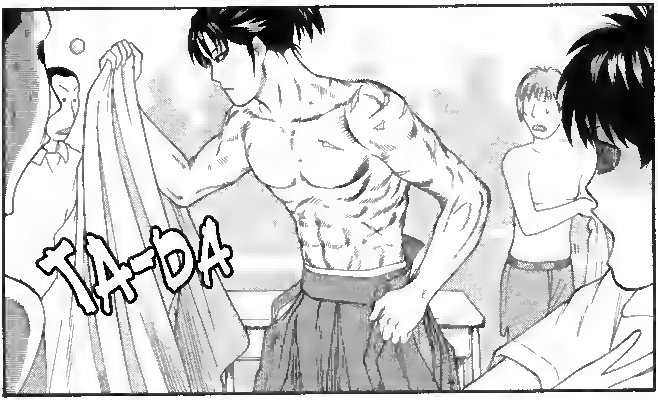
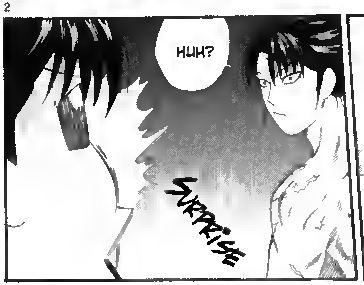
CHAPTER ◇8
P.E. CLASS

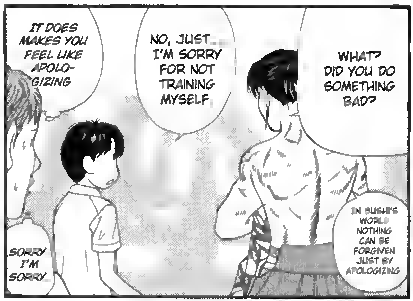
WHAT?
KNOCK IT OFF WHAT IS IT?
WOWW
Hmm, it would be the right time, wouldn't it? For someone to notice my beautiful muscles!
1-2


TA-DA

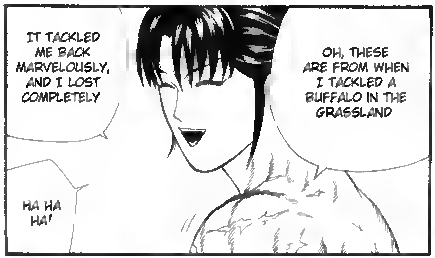
2


HUH?
SURPRISE

THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL AN "IRON BODY"!
IT'S IRON!
KINNIKU MAKE YOU LOOK SUGOI!!!
1-2
小伝


IT DOES MAKES YOU FEEL LIKE APOLO-GIZING
NO, JUST... I'M SORRY FOR NOT TRAINING MYSELF.
WHAT? DID YOU DO SOMETHING BAD?
IN RUGBY'S WORLD NOTHING CAN BE FORGIVEN JUST BY APOLOGIZING
SORRY I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY.


IT TACKLED ME BACK MARVELOUSLY, AND I LOST COMPLETELY
OH, THESE ARE FROM WHEN I TACKLED A BUFFALO IN THE GRASSLAND
HA HA HA!

ERR... HOW D YOU GET THOSE SCARS ON YOUR SHOULDERS?
THERE ARE A LOT IN OTHER PLACES TOO

3

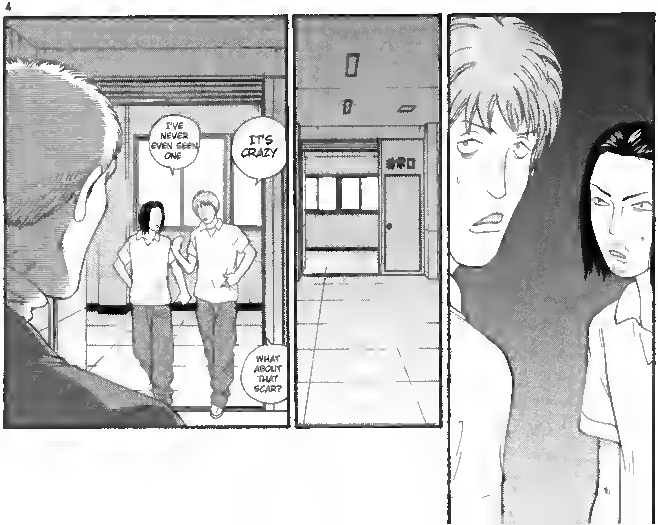
Ha ha ha, are you dumb or what? It makes me laugh
I SEE YOU WERE LUCKY NOT TO DIE THEN
I GOT NEW DOUSHIROU INFO WITH THIS NUMBER TEN TACKLING BUFFALOS.

Ta-tackle?!
WHAM
Something that weighs a ton
SOMETHING LIKE YATCHAN'S FIGHTER-ISH HOBBY?

BUF—
—FALO?!

You are a fool!
WHAT ABOUT LEATHER CLOTHES?
LEATHER, YOU SAY?
LEATHER?
WHAT ABOUT LEATHER?!
AT LEAST FIGHT AFTER YOU'VE ACQUIRED AN IRON VEST
WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT SOMETHING THAT COULD ONLY INCREASE YOUR DEFENSE BY FIVE?
DON'T FIGHT A ONE TON
LEATHER CLOTHES HUH?
DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT THAT DUMB
I WORE LEATHER CLOTHES WHEN I FOUGHT

BUFFALO AS MAEJIMA IMAGINES IT
COME ON!
A FIGHT
IT'S TOO BIG EITHER WAY
I wouldn't even scratch him
He certainly is an amazing man, tackling buffalos...

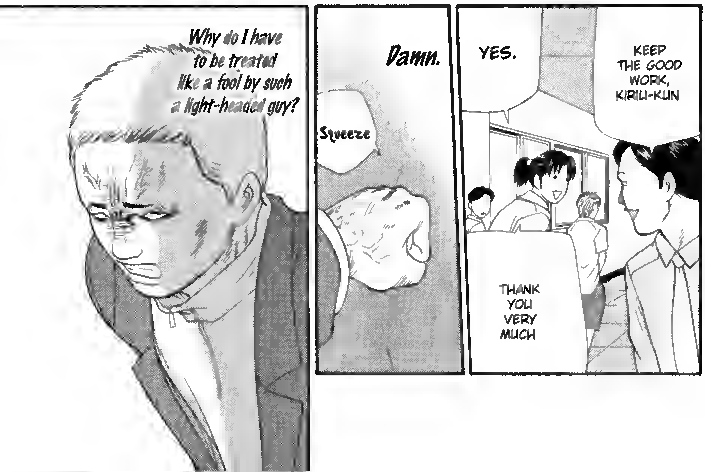

I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN ONE
IT'S CRAZY
WHAT ABOUT THAT SCAR?

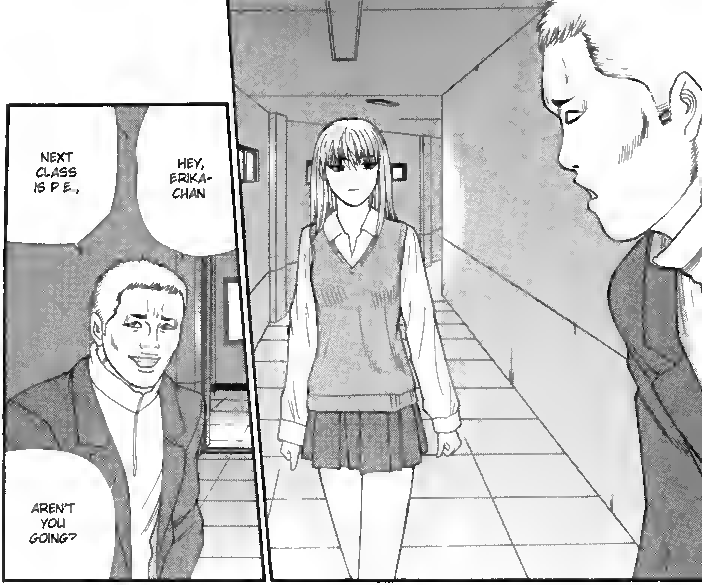
WE'LL DO IT TODAY.
ABOUT KIRIU
IF I WAIT ANY LONGER, THEY'LL THINK I'M A COWARD WHO CAN'T TAKE REVENGE.
YOU'RE CUTTING AGAIN?
YOU, TOO, SHIBA-CHAN, 'CAUSE CLASS ONE AND TWO ARE COMBINED.
WHAT? NEXT CLASS IS P.E.?
I WON'T DO SUCH BORING THINGS
YOU GOT SCARED?
UH, WHAT?
IT'S AS EVERYONE SAYS
SHIBA-CHAN
SORRY, BUT WE WON'T DO IT
5
WE'RE TOO SOFT TO FIGHT HIM
YEAH, LIKE A VETERAN WARRIOR
I'M SCARED. HONESTLY, I'M WAY TOO SCARED.
IT'S NO JOKE, WE'RE TOTALLY WEAK
WE'RE SCARED. REALLY SCARED.
WELL, I'LL JUST SAY IT.
THAT MAN HAS A LOT OF MUSCLES, SCARS, TOO

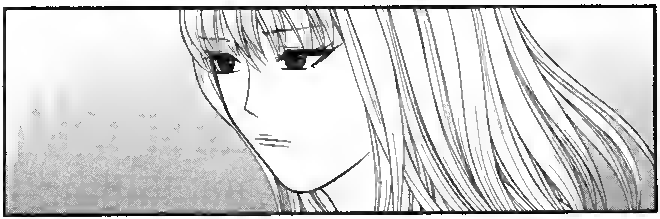
PUNCH
PUNCH
SHIBA-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU—
KICK
THERE'S NO USE FOR YOU TO KEEP LIVING BEING SO WEAK AND COWARDLY.
KICK
KICK
STO—
KICK
EEEK

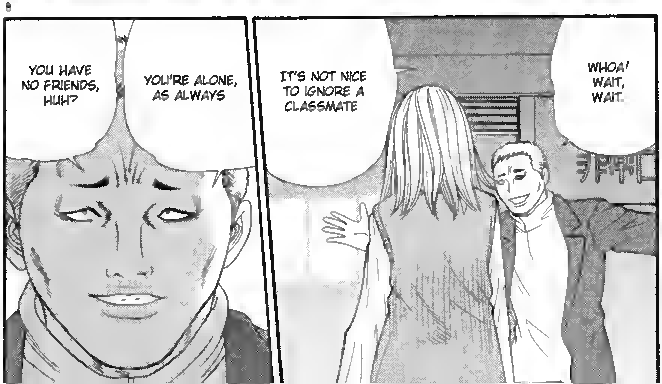
SENSEI, GOOD MORNING!
OH, GOOD MORNING.
NICE WEATHER WE'RE HAVING
THE WEATHER IS NICE TODAY

RUNNING
TURNS
I SEE, SO CLASS ONE AND TWO ARE AT PE NOW, HUH?
YES!


KEEP THE GOOD WORK, KIRII-KUN
YES.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
Damn.
Squeeze
Why do I have to be treated like a fool by such a light-headed guy?

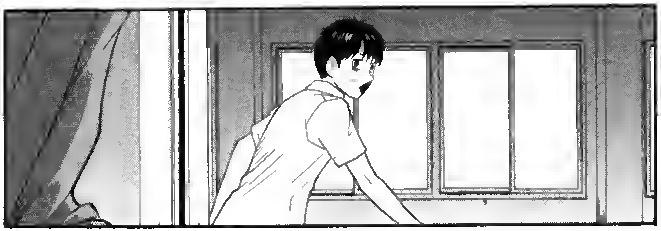

HEY, ERIKA-CHAN
NEXT CLASS IS P.E., AREN'T YOU GOING?

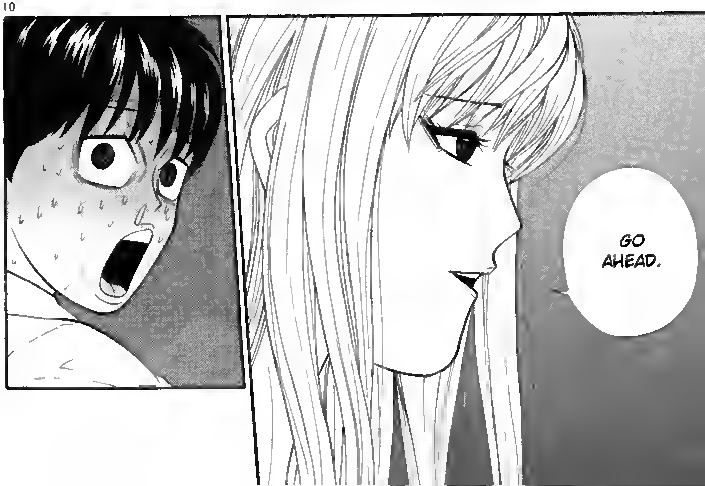



WHOA! WAIT, WAIT.
IT'S NOT NICE TO IGNORE A CLASSMATE
YOU'RE ALONE, AS ALWAYS
YOU HAVE NO FRIENDS, HUH?

I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND.
SOMEONE WHO HITS WEAK PEOPLE? NO, THANKS
WHAT?!
IF YOU REALLY DON'T LIKE THAT BUSHI GUY, WHY DON'T YOU FIGHT HIM YOURSELF?
YOU'RE THE REAL COWARD
HUH?
HEH HEH
BACK OFF!
STOP IT DON'T MAKE ME ANGRY, UNDERSTAND?
WHAT'VE YOU GOT IN YOUR POCKET, WEAKLING?

I'LL STAB YOU, KIDDO.




GO AHEAD.

I WON'T HAVE TO SEE YOUR FACE EVER
DO IT, IF YOU CAN.
YOU WEAKLING.
Ahhhh!
A woman is walking around naked!
BY THE WAY, RONY, YOU WANNA CUT?
TODAY IS THE HIGH JUMP.

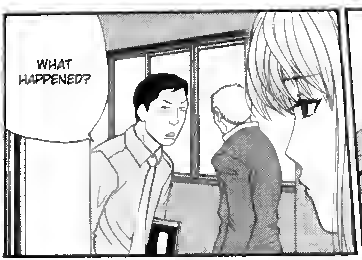
STAMPED

12

WHERE?
Where is she?!
I HEARD IT FROM OVER THERE—
Where?!

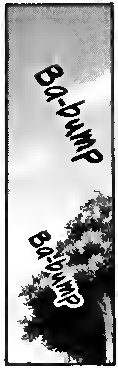
Where?!

She's clothed!
She's clothed!
Take 'em off!
BUT IT'S ALL GOOD!


WHAT HAPPENED?

WOW, SHE GOT ANGRY!
WHAT?! D'YOU WANNA GET KILLED?
A SCARY WOMAN!
W-WAS IT OVER THERE?
I WANT TO GET KILLED!

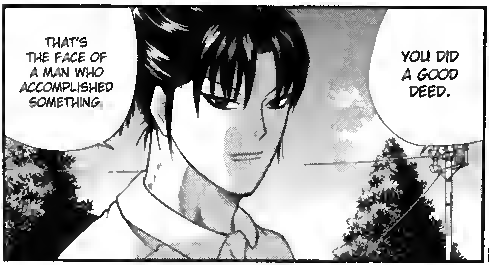
Ba-bump
DAMN, WE COULDN'T SEE HER.
WHO WAS IT?
Ba-bump
WAS SHE COMPLETELY NAKED?

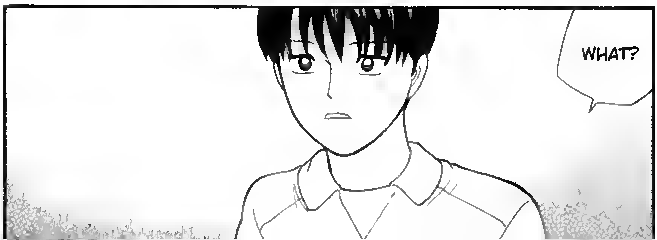

Ba-bump
Ba-bump

She would've been stabbed for sure...
Some people just don't understand timing.
Thump Thump
Pant
Pant
Pant

Nobody will thank me, but I did it, right?
Well, that's that. I saved that girl.
LET'S JUST SAY I'M A CAPABLE MAN WHEN I WANT TO BE.

I NEVER THOUGHT TO CHANGE THINGS SO DRASTICALLY.
I THINK THE NAKED WOMAN THING WAS TOO MUCH


THAT'S THE FACE OF A MAN WHO ACCOMPLISHED SOMETHING.
YOU DID A GOOD DEED.


WHAT?

OOPS!
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT ACCOMPLISHING?
IT'S NOT THAT!
HEY GATHER UP!
WHAT? KOSAKA SAW IT?
YOU SAW HER?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU SHOULDN'T TACKLE BUFFALOS, YET SOMEHOW, YOU UNDERSTAND THINGS LIKE THIS...
PEOPLE HAVE THOUGHT OF MANY WAYS BUT...
THE BEST WAY TO DO IT IS...
DOESN'T HE HAVE SOME KIND OF KIMONO FIXATION?
IS THAT CLOSER?
FOR MEN TO JUMP HIGHER
What's with that look?!
He looks good!
Well, he's pretty mysterious, but...
Doushirou-kun...

15

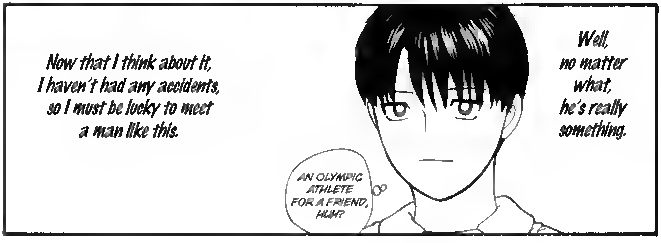
That day, Doushirou-kun...

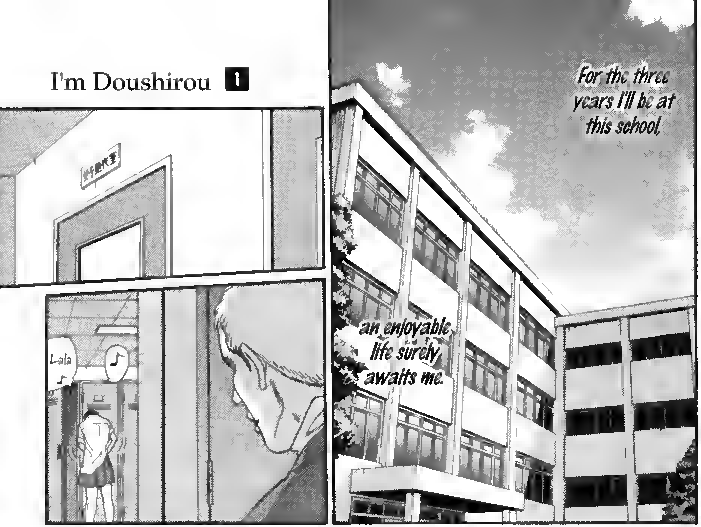
recorded a 2.10 meter jump.
...with a Doushirou Jump.

THERE WON'T BE A STONE...
IF I DO IT LIKE THAT, I'LL GET SERIOUSLY INJURED IF THERE'S A SPIKED STONE AT THE OTHER END.
KIRIU, LIKE THIS— JUMP PUTTING YOUR BACK FIRST
YOU COULD GO TO THE OLYMPICS!
GIVE IT A TRY!

WOW
He did it like...
THE WAY HE SWINGS HIS KATANA!

16


Now that I think about it, I haven't had any accidents, so I must be lucky to meet a man like this.
Well, no matter what, he's really something.
AN OLYMPIC ATHLETE FOR A FRIEND, HUH?

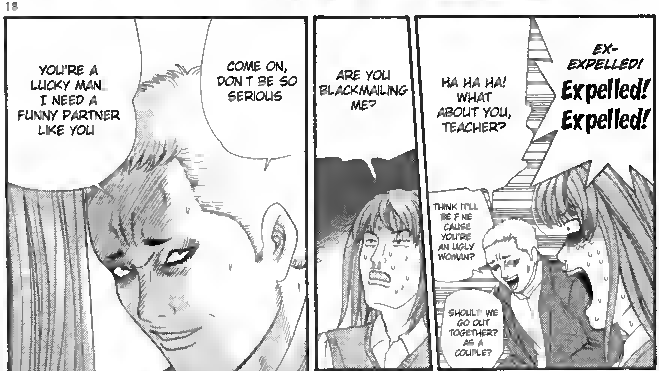

For the three years I'll be at this school,
an enjoyable life surely awaits me.
La-la

I MEAN, A SCHOOL GIRL HAS TO HAVE A UNIFORM
Shake
Shake
HEH HEH, SOMEONE'S OFTEN STEALING BLOOMERS, BUT...
...THOSE GUYS SHOULD DIE.

HA HA HA! I GOT IT!
YOU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
IT'S TOO FUNNY! TEACHER, YOU LOOK SO UGLY WHEN YOU TURN AROUND!
NO, ROBBERS, YOU SHOULD RETURN IT TO AVOID GETTING CAUGHT.
OH, AND NO STEALING
IT FEELS GOOD TO WEAR WHAT A GIRL WEARS

ME? I'M A ROBBER!
SORRY TEACHER!
HA HA HA, IT'S SO FUNNY! HA HA HA!
WH-WHA- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! YOU'RE IN THE GIRLS LOCKER ROOM!

18


YOU'RE A LUCKY MAN. I NEED A FUNNY PARTNER LIKE YOU
COME ON, DON'T BE SO SERIOUS
ARE YOU BLACKMAILING ME?
HA HA HA! WHAT ABOUT YOU, TEACHER?
EX-EXPELLED!
Expelled! Expelled!
THINK I'LL BE FINE CAUSE YOU'RE AN UGLY WOMAN?
SHOULD WE GO OUT TOGETHER? AS A COUPLE?

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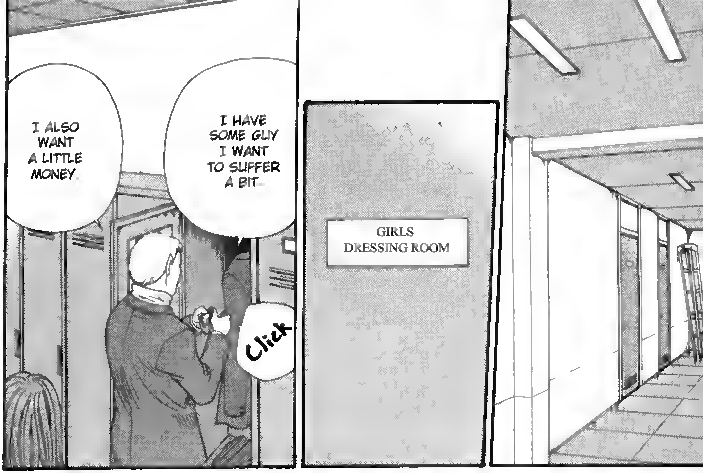
CHAPTER ◇ 9
PREMONITION OF LOVE ♡

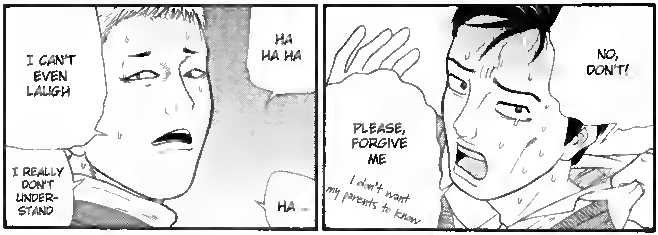

I ALSO WANT A LITTLE MONEY.
I HAVE SOME GUY I WANT TO SUFFER A BIT...
Click
GIRLS DRESSING ROOM

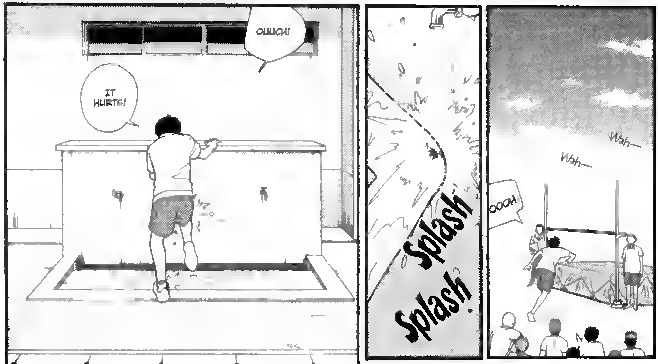
COME ON, TEACHER LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT EACH OTHER'S TASTES, SHALL WE?
LET'S HAVE SOME FUN, BUDDY.
YOU'RE A TEACHER WEARING A STUDENT'S CLOTHING. YOU CAN'T SAY ANYTHING.
Puff
Slit
EVEN WEARING WIGS
SHIBAYAMA, YOU DON'T FEEL A BIT GUILTY, DO YOU?
STEALING FROM A FRIEND'S WALLET...

2

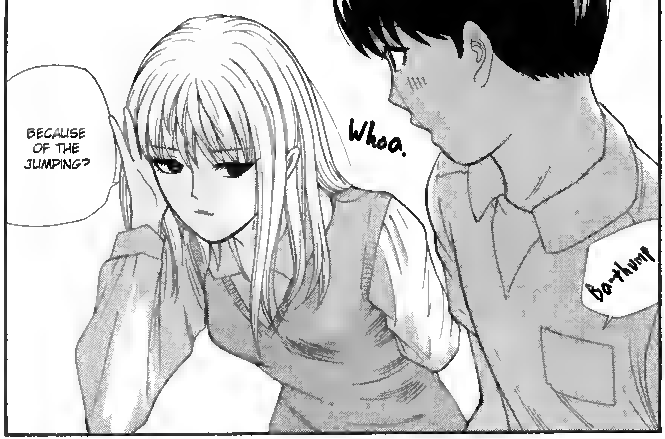
A THIEF LIKE YOU WILL BE EXPELLED!
DON'T PLAY WITH ME, I'M AN ALMIGHTY TEACHER!
I WILL NOT BE MANIPULATED BY YOUR THREATS!
JUST BECAUSE YOU SAW MY LITTLE STRANGE HOBBY...

HEY–
HERE, LET THEM SEE...
NO
DON'T!
..YOUR STRANGE LITTLE HOBBY!
BANG


I CAN'T EVEN LAUGH
HA HA HA
I REALLY DON'T UNDER-STAND
HA...
NO, DON'T!
PLEASE, FORGIVE ME
I don't want my parents to know.


OUCH!
IT HURTS!
Splash
Splash
Wah—
Wah—
OOOH

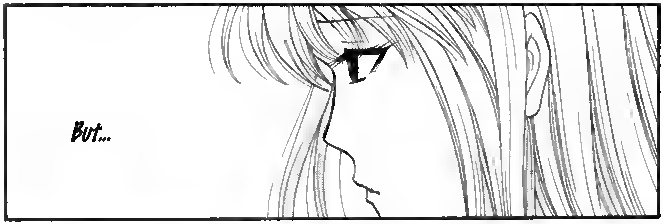
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
4
Wha –
What is it?
CHIHUAHUA
...
It's the scary girl from a few minutes ago.
HUH? UM, I TRIPPED
IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT


Whoa.
Ba-thump
BECAUSE OF THE JUMPING?

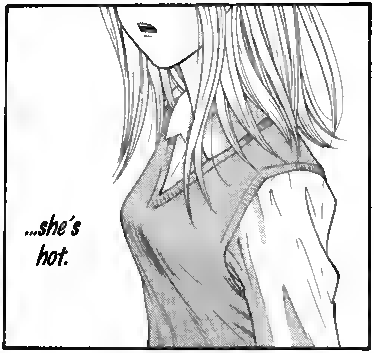
YES HA HA HA
I WAS LOOKING INTO THE SKY...
AND I TRIPPED OVER A LITTLE STONE HA HA HA
Ba-thump
Ba-thump
AH HA HA HA I COULDN'T JUMP OVER A ONE CENTIMETER STONE

AH HA HA HA I FAILED IN HIGH-JUMPING A ONE CENTIMETER HIGH STONE.
WHAT'S HAPPENING? I CAN'T STOP PROBABLY 'CAUSE I'M NERVOUS.
HEE-HEE.
AH HA HA HA I'LL JUMP NEXT TIME!
She's cute.
This girl is cute, indeed. She's not scary.

Oh, it seems there's a premonition of love.
AH HA HA THE FLEA IS A GREAT JUMPER, DID YOU KNOW THAT?
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
What the...? It's the Poushirou Effect!
WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THAT BUSHI?
6
HMM. WELL, HE LOOKS STRANGE, TOO.
Sigh.
OH, THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S A STRANGE GUY
DON'T MIND HIM.
HE SAID YOU WERE HIS MASTER OR SOMETHING.
Bang
HA HA HA
KIND OF A STRANGE THING TO SAY, ISN'T IT?
TINOT


But...

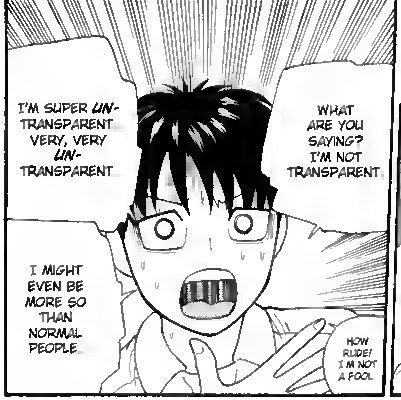
Doushirou
are you planning to date this girl?
DON'T DO IT. HE'LL TRANSFORM YOUR HAIR INTO A JAPANESE STYLE

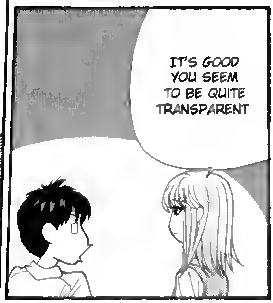

...she's hot.

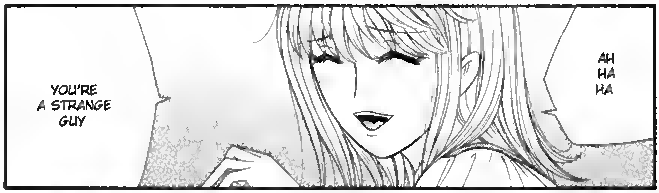
Shock

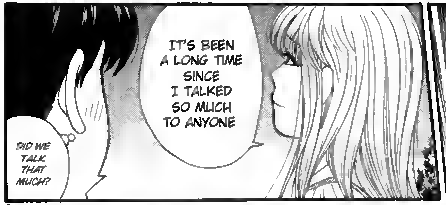
UM... AH... A-AND YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ALL ALONE IN THIS PLACE?

SURPRISED


I'M SUPER UN-TRANSPARENT VERY, VERY UN-TRANSPARENT
I MIGHT EVEN BE MORE SO THAN NORMAL PEOPLE
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I'M NOT TRANSPARENT
HOW RUDE! I AM NOT A POOL


IT'S GOOD YOU SEEM TO BE QUITE TRANSPARENT


YOU'RE A STRANGE GUY
AH HA HA


IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I TALKED SO MUCH TO ANYONE
DID WE TALK THAT MUCH?

Squeeze

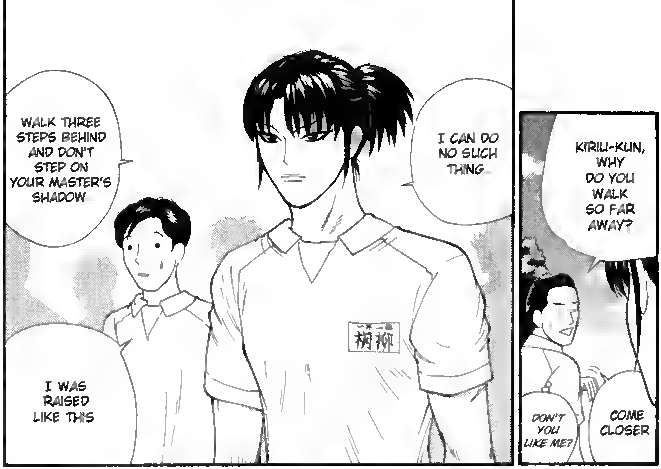
I'M NOT GOOD AT BEING FRIENDLY WITH PEOPLE

THAT'S WHY I DON'T JOIN CLASSES LIKE P.E., WHERE YOU HAVE TO BE WITH EVERYONE

I left her unwillingly
HEY, KOSAKA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE SHADOWS?
WELL, IT WAS THE ROUSHIROU EFFECT
...AND JUMP INTO MY ARMS
COME ON, DON'T BE AFRAID SMILE
...say such a thing.
I could never...
BUT, YOU'RE SO CUTE WHEN YOU SMILE

YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE ALL THAT MONEY.
STOP IT, THAT'S ENOUGH.
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING, STEALING FROM SO MANY PEOPLE?
I... I DON'T WANT IT
HERE, YOUR CUT.
WELL, I WANNA PLAY SOME PRANKS, TODAY
Flop
SO, IT'LL FEEL LIKE IT HAS A LITTLE LESS MONEY,
YOU JUST TAKE A LITTLE BIT,
BUT THEY MAY THINK IT'S NOTHING
I'D BETTER CHANGE IT TO ERIKA'S WALLET. I'LL MESS WITH HER AGAIN.
...
YOU THINK IT'S NO FUN TO MESS WITH A GUY LITTLE BY LITTLE EITHER, RIGHT?
AND THEN, I'LL PUT THIS MARKED PAPER MONEY INTO KIRILI'S WALLET.
Slide
HEY, THE BELL IS GOING TO RING.
YOU SHOULD GET SOME BENEFIT
TAKE IT. THERE'S NO USE IN PRETENDING TO BE A GOOD BOY, NOW IS THERE?
Gush

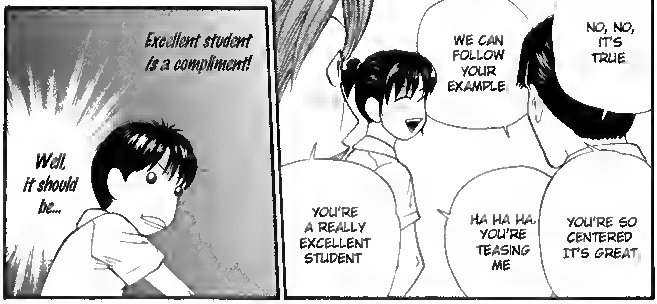
EVERYBODY IS SO MEAN NO ONE HAD THE STOLEN WALLET
THAT TIME A STOLEN WALLET APPEARED ON SHIRASE ERIKA'S DESK... IT WAS YOU?
DING DONG
YOU... YOU'RE REALLY MEAN
IF YOU WANT ME TO PUBLISH YOUR BEAUTIFUL PICTURES, KEEP TALKIN'
Pa
WELL, I WON'T DO SUCH MEAN THING THIS TIME...
11
HUH?
IF AN ENEMY HIDES A SWORD IN THE CUSHION, I'LL DIE IMMEDIATELY
ENEMY HMM? WHO'S YOUR ENEMY?
AS IF THERE WAS ANYONE WHO COULD BE YOUR ENEMY
I CANNOT DO SUCH A DANGEROUS THING AS JUMPING BACKWARDS
COME ON, NOW... THE CUSHION WILL ALWAYS BE THERE
IS THAT SOMETHING A GUY WHO TACKLED A BUFFALO SAYS?
OK?
KIRII-KUN, PLEASE, THINK ABOUT IT
LET'S GO TO THE OLYMPICS

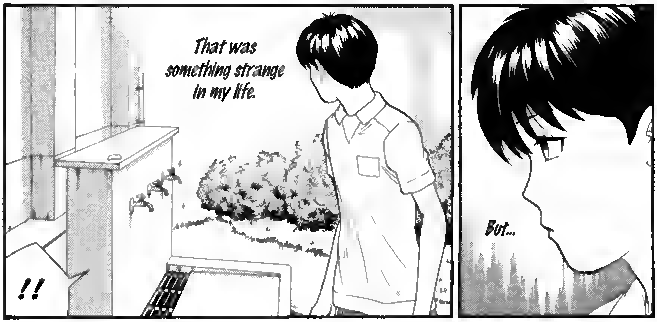

WALK THREE STEPS BEHIND AND DON'T STEP ON YOUR MASTER'S SHADOW
I CAN DO NO SUCH THING
I WAS RAISED LIKE THIS
KIRIU-KUN, WHY DO YOU WALK SO FAR AWAY?
COME CLOSER
DON'T YOU LIKE ME?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH
BWA HA HA! AHEM.
IF YOU NEED SOMETHING, JUST CALL ME
Master?
I'm a master! Of this man!

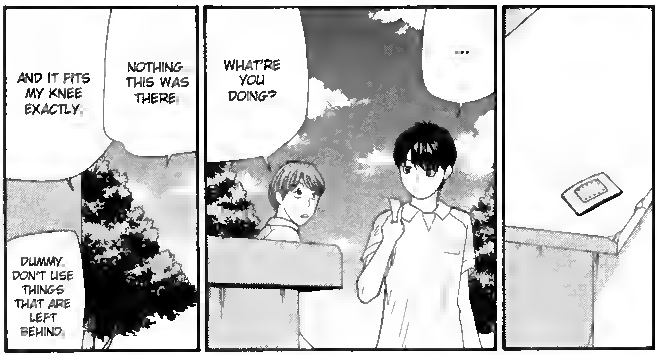
12

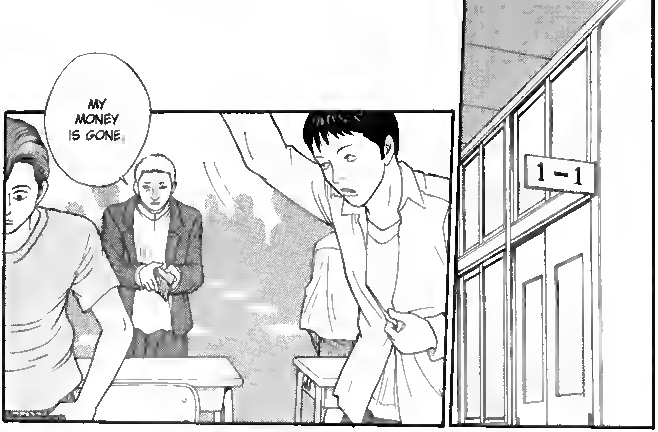
HA HA HA DO YOU THINK SO?
IT'S NOT A COMPLIMENT
KIRIU-KUN, YOU'RE WHAT THEY CALL AN EXCELLENT STUDENT
IT'S GREAT
Splish

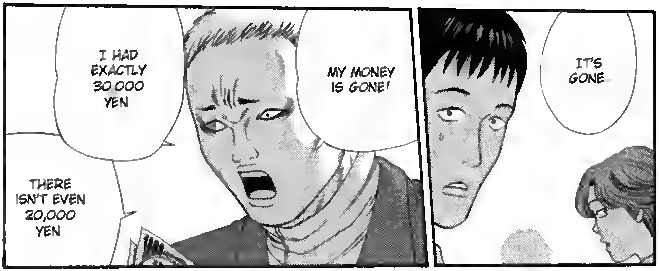

Excellent student is a compliment!
Well, it should be...
YOU'RE A REALLY EXCELLENT STUDENT
WE CAN FOLLOW YOUR EXAMPLE
NO, NO, IT'S TRUE
HA HA HA. YOU'RE TEASING ME
YOU'RE SO CENTERED IT'S GREAT


That was something strange in my life.
!!
But...

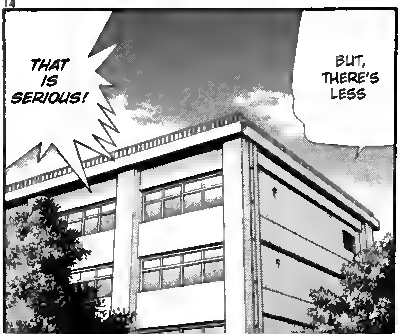
13

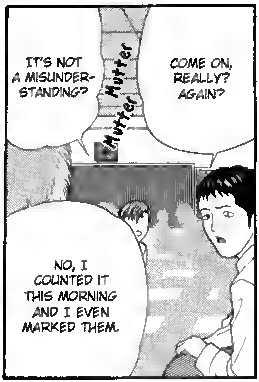

AND IT FITS MY KNEE EXACTLY.
NOTHING THIS WAS THERE.
DUMMY. DON'T USE THINGS THAT ARE LEFT BEHIND.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
...

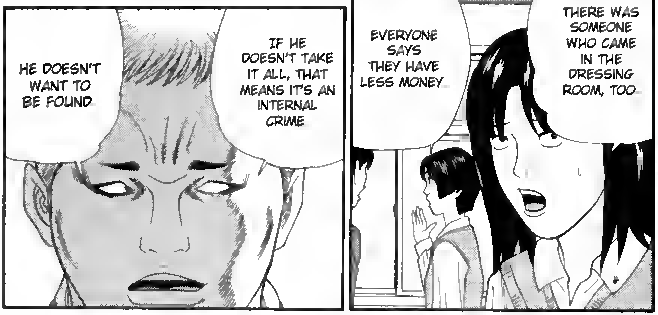

MY MONEY IS GONE
1-1


I HAD EXACTLY 30,000 YEN
MY MONEY IS GONE!
IT'S GONE
THERE ISN'T EVEN 20,000 YEN

REALLY? IT'S RIGHT THERE
HEY! MINE'S GONE, TOO!
WHAT KIND OF MARK?


THAT IS SERIOUS!
BUT, THERE'S LESS

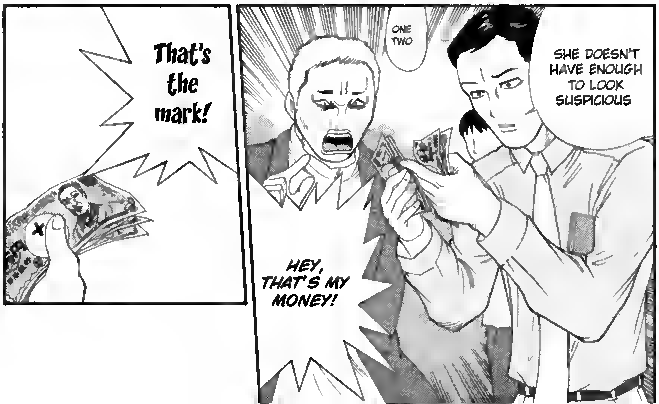

IT'S NOT A MISUNDER-STANDING?
Mutter
Mutter
COME ON, REALLY? AGAIN?
NO, I COUNTED IT THIS MORNING AND I EVEN MARKED THEM.

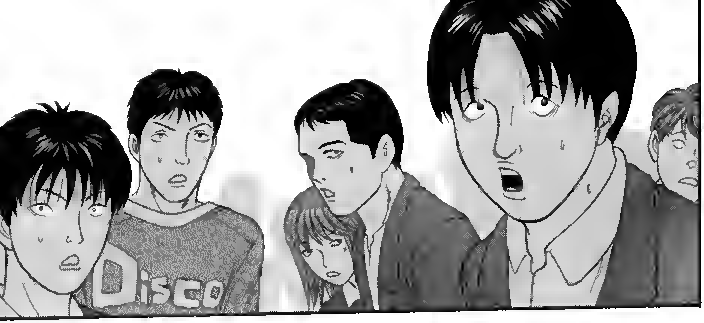

THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO CAME IN THE DRESSING ROOM, TOO
EVERYONE SAYS THEY HAVE LESS MONEY
IF HE DOESN'T TAKE IT ALL, THAT MEANS IT'S AN INTERNAL CRIME
HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE FOUND

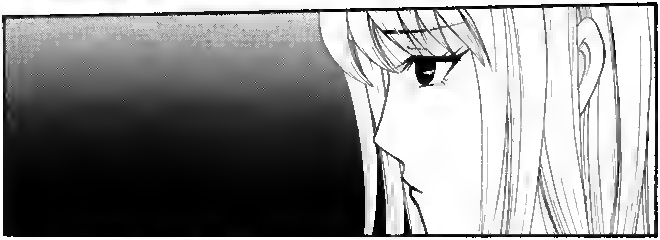
SOMETHING SIMILAR HAPPENED BEFORE
Whisper
Whisper
SHE DOESN'T TAKE CLASSES

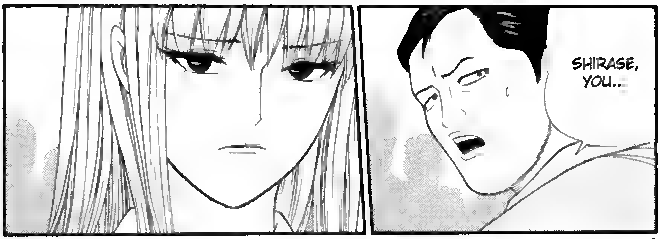
Whisper
Whisper
WHAT?
HOW SCARY
SHIRASE
Jeez

Thud
REALLY? I'LL TREAT YOU.
IT WAS TAKEN FROM ME TOO.
Step
Step
EVIL.
PUNISH!
Walking
GROUP ONE IS IN AN UPROAR.
THEY SAY THEIR MONEY HAS DISAPPEARED
I'LL OPEN IT, OK?
I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS, BUT...
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO SAID THEY SAW YOU WALKING AROUND HERE
Excuse


That's the mark!
ONE TWO
SHE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH TO LOOK SUSPICIOUS
HEY, THAT'S MY MONEY!

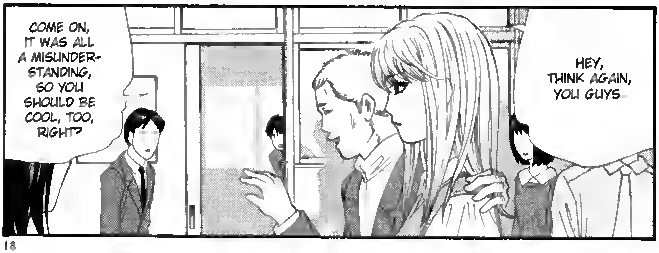

Disco

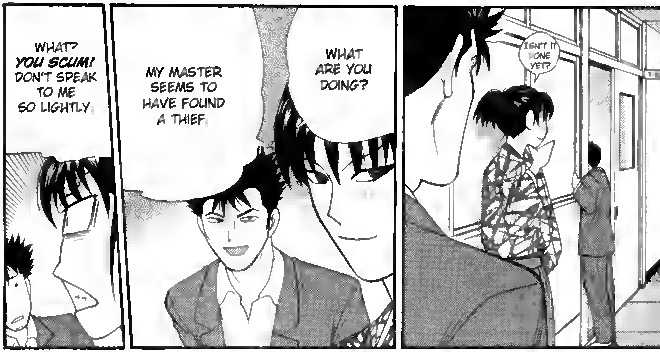



SHIRASE, YOU...

OH!
NO, IT'S A MISUNDER-STANDING!
NO, I REMEMBERED THAT I LENT SOME TO ERICCHI.
THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S RIGHT. I LENT IT.
SORRY, MY MISTAKE

HEY, SHIMAYAMA, AREN'T YOU TRYING TO COVER FOR SHIRASE?
Whisper
NO, I'M NOT.
IT'S JUST HER, RIGHT? WHO DIDN'T PARTICIPATE...
IT'S NOT RIGHT SEEMS LIKE A LIE...
Whisper
Whisper
Whisper
BUT, I HAVE 1000 YEN LESS


COME ON, IT WAS ALL A MISUNDER-STANDING, SO YOU SHOULD BE COOL, TOO, RIGHT?
HEY, THINK AGAIN, YOU GUYS


WHAT? *YOU SCUM!* DON'T SPEAK TO ME SO LIGHTLY.
MY MASTER SEEMS TO HAVE FOUND A THIEF.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ISN'T IT DONE YET?

道士郎でござる①

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